THE RICHMOND REVIEW 2011

RICHMOND & DISTRICT CIVIC SOCIETY



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Chairman's Report

John Clarke

I am writing this in the summer for editorial reasons and you will be reading it in the middle of winter: deep snow, frost and cold winds from Siberia (nothing good ever came out of Siberia). For half of the reporting year I was not chairman and took little note of the important civic events; but I've learned my lesson and will take more note of local happenings in future.

In my estimation there were two significant events this year. The first was the ending of the Richmond Heritage Partnership Scheme (RHPS) and the other was the closure of Richmond Lower School.

But first, the underrated RHPS whose low level of publicity belied the achievements of the small team, which achieved national acclaim for its project. The scheme began in 2003 when it was identified that empty spaces above shops, neglected and inappropriate shop fronts, decay and lack of maintenance to the historic town of Richmond needed urgent and significant action to arrest what might otherwise have been a dying town. It also appeared that the mighty Catterick Garrison could overshadow and diminish the ancient Georgian town of Richmond with its hundreds of years of history and heritage of national importance. The crucial need was to develop an economic model for the careful conservation of the existing commercial buildings based around the magnificent cobbled Market Place and its immediate environs. Consequently, a Conservation Appraisal was undertaken and a bid submitted to Yorkshire Forward for a pilot project. This was linked to a bid to English Heritage for grants for the restoration of the fabric and to North Yorkshire County Council for help in the financing of the scheme.

From these organisations a management group was established, an invitation being offered to the Civic Society for an appropriate

representative. I have been that individual since the inception of the scheme. The core zone was the Market Place and areas adjacent to it, for which several awards and nominations have been given. In 2009/10 the project helped Richmond achieve the title UK Great Town, awarded by the Academy of Urbanism.

It took approximately three years to promote and develop the project, the launch taking place in 2006. Since then sixty three properties have been financially supported with grants, the largest being in excess of £200k. The total investment from the public sector has been £1m and the private sector has contributed £700k.

The success of the project can be directly attributed to the dedication of the management team, especially the diligence, patience and hard work of the chairman, Town Manager, Colin Grant.

One can readily observe the physical achievements of the scheme but the refurbishment has additionally given an opportunity for job creation and a base for existing business to weather the current difficult economic times. Confidence is returning to Richmond which has established itself as a Renaissance Market Town, whereas, at one time, it looked as though it could become another victim of urban decay. This huge investment made will last for generations.

The other significant event was the closure of Lower School where grammar school pupils have included Charles Dodgson (Lewis Carroll) and the educationist James Tate. Tate, a Fellow of Sidney-Sussex College, Cambridge was educated in Richmond, becoming Master of Richmond School, where 'Tate's Invincibles' were educated (although not in the same building). After 161 years of education in Lower School, Year 7 pupils will transfer to the main site, which will then have 1700 students aged 11 to 18 and 130 employees. Pupils will move to the new and refurbished premises where the controversial architecture, whilst not widely popular, provides education within our Renaissance Town.

But the future beckons and by the time you read this, events will have naturally moved on, plans for the future of Lower School becoming a little more clear. The current proposals are for Richmondshire District Council

(RDC) to take over from North Yorkshire County Council, eventually offering the old building for community use and adapting the new building for RDC offices.

Two further issues have generated huge public interest: firstly, car parking at The Station and, secondly, the closure of The Tourist Information Centre and the planning application to use the building as a café with tables in the Friary Gardens.

Another very local issue is the leaflet 'What's On'. There had been concern recently that publication would cease through lack of financial support, but your Society has given £300 towards the continuation of this most useful publication.

As the Town Council does not have its own list, a new project for our next year is a Buildings at Risk survey, identifying the various properties in the town which fall into this category. In order to maintain Richmond's fabric it is felt these properties should be recognised and brought to public attention.

During August, the committee felt that it would also be a good idea to re-visit their 2004 survey, 'Taking Stock of Richmond'. The committee was very conscious of the number of issues identified in 2004 which had since been addressed by the authorities. By the time this is being read, we hope to have had an open meeting to discuss our findings and also the project, 'Buildings at Risk'.

With 'What's On', 'Buildings at Risk' and 'Taking Stock' we hope you will appreciate that the committee continues to be proactive by involving our society in some of the important aspects of the town.

We include in this edition a tribute to David Morris whom we all greatly miss. I would like to add a further tribute to Grizel Morris who survived David by only a short time. From its very inception The Society benefitted enormously from her support and huge knowledge of the area, while many speakers enjoyed her generous hospitality.

Finally, I should like to thank our former Chairman, Fred Wood, for safely steering us through some awkward times in his six year tenure and

assure him that the Committee continues to work hard in being involved in the preservation, planning and appropriate modernisation of Richmond. Our thanks need, also, to be offered to the Committee for their conscientious work, initiative and foresight. However, it is through the commitment and support of all members of The Society that we are able to continue to play a major civic role in the town.

John Clarke is a retired architect who trained at the University of Sheffield. He has been Director of Estates with both Yorkshire and Wessex Regional Health Authorities and was until recently Chairman of the Planning Sub-Committee.

Collectanea[1]

The Editors

A year ago the threat of cuts to public spending was a cause of great concern, not just across the county but across the country. This year has seen the seriousness of those cuts and the local impact we all feared, as grants to bodies throughout the area have been slashed. The Chairman records the passing of the Richmond Heritage Partnership that has transformed the Market Place by sensitive restoration of the facades of both shops and offices. By doing so, it has also given support to retailers simply by making the town appear prosperous in comparison to other market towns. This may, indeed, explain in part why Richmond has fewer empty shop premises than most of its competitors.

Readers will be very aware of the impact on the arts and tourism of these cuts in grants. The Georgian Theatre, North Country Theatre and the Richmond Walking and Book Festival have all experienced cuts so deep that they must have seemed life-threatening. The dismay felt throughout Richmondshire at the closure of Tourist Information Centres has been well-documented by the press and residents have been vocal in their condemnation. And yet, and this is our key point, those bodies have so far proved resourceful and resilient, and we can report on a year of vibrant activity and strong debate within the town. The Swaledale Festival continues to develop thanks to its high ticket sales; The Walking and Book Festival has survived another year thanks to generous local sponsorship, particularly by Alt-Berg, and its programme looks as inviting as ever; the Richmondshire Subscription Concerts' programme is still astonishing value linked to very high standards of performance. At the same time, newer groups are becoming embedded in the community: TRY is pioneering community gardens and awareness of a completely new set of environmental principles; the town has organized a successful Eco

[1] Collectanea: collected writings; also literary items forming a collection (1791)

Week complete with a pie-making competition; The George and Dragon in Hudswell is pioneering a new style of community village pub. This success at holding firmly to the past and still moving forward to the future seems to us a true mark of Richmond's stature as a market town and a quality that we all should celebrate. It is based on groups (often quite small) of people with clear vision supported by an army of volunteers and well-wishers.

In spite of our concern over the Tourist Information Centres, visitor numbers seem to be healthy, thanks in part to the popularity of the Coast to Coast Walk and some excellent TV programmes about the Dales. The town's retail offer is improving and some of the traditional pubs are trying to improve their standard of food. The Station continues to attract high numbers with its unique blend of cinema, exhibitions, food and retail outlets (350,000 visitors in the last 12 months).



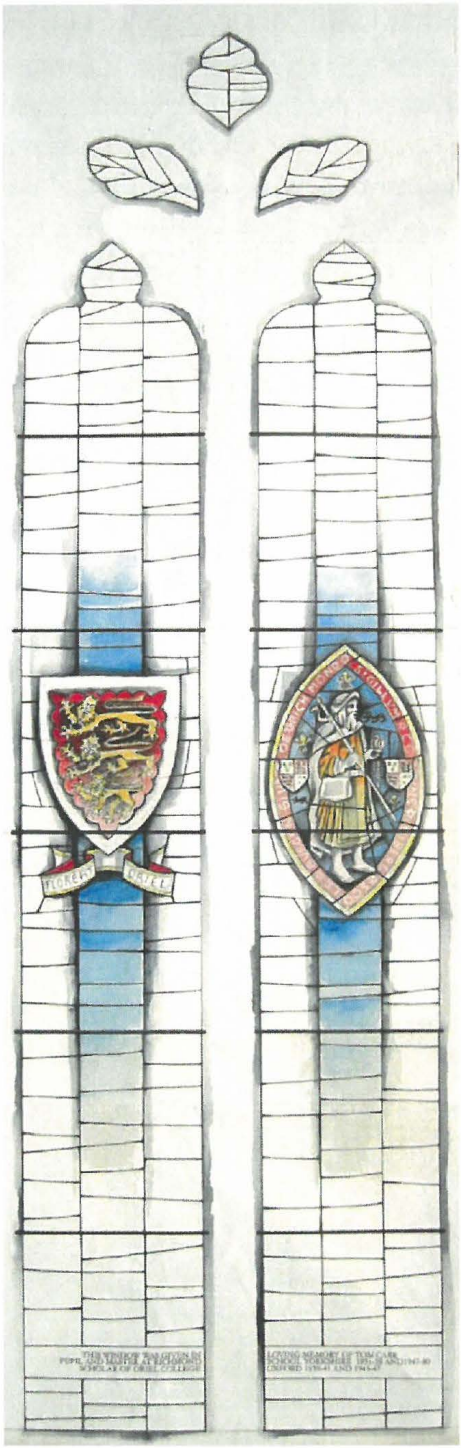
Mayor and Town Crier defend the town's boundary *Photograph: Colin Chitty*

Many visitors as well as locals joined the Richmond Boundary Riding in August. Held every seven years since 1576, it forms a fifteen-mile route around the town. Led by the Pinder, Robert Chandler, and the Mayor, Councillor Oliver Blease, as well as other members of Richmond Town Council, the walk includes eighteen proclamations made along the route, to defend the town's boundaries. The walk was yet another example of what Richmond does so well: the upholding of tradition, with real community spirit.

Two new stained glass windows were dedicated this year in St. Mary's: one, the Guild window is the subject of a short article; the other, the Carr window was donated by Katherine Carr, her family and Richmond School Old Boys in memory of the late Tom Carr, pupil and much respected master at Richmond School. In the left hand panel are the arms of Oriel College Oxford, where Tom was a scholar, and the right hand panel shows the badge of Richmond School.

Communities cannot develop without debate and controversy. The Review itself is this year publishing conflicting viewpoints on the town's solar-power debate to help inform its readers. There are equally opposed views about the planning application to open a café in part of the Friary Gardens. We are still waiting to see what proposals are made to ensure that Lower School continues as a community resource and as part of the town's historic legacy. There will, inevitably, be conflict but it is through this conflict that the town reinvents itself while protecting its very special combination of landscape and fine architecture.

We hope that this year's Review reflects this marriage of past and present and that readers continue to enjoy the mix.



The design for the Tom Carr window,
St. Mary's Church

The Work of the Planning Sub-Committee

Mark Whyman

In October 2010, I succeeded John Clarke as Chair of the Civic Society Planning Sub-Committee. John is a hard act to follow but he has been very supportive and still attends many meetings and, of course, is available if the Committee has tricky applications to deal with.

In the context of Town Planning we live in uncertain and challenging times as the 1947 Town and Country Planning Act, which has served in preserving our heritage for well over six decades, is to be replaced by a much more relaxed legislation. At the time of writing, the National Planning Policy Framework has just been published, and early indications suggest that many of the hard and fast safeguards, such as development limits, may disappear. Simon Thurley, Chief Executive of English Heritage, writing in *Country Life*, sees the future protection of heritage lying with individuals and local bodies such as the Civic Society. However, any objections that we may make have to be justified in planning terms. That we do not like a project is no argument; we have to find concrete reasons, acceptable to the Planners and the RDC Planning Committee, for any objection we might make. We are moving into an age when the role of the Civic Society in protecting Richmond and District from inappropriate development will become vastly more important but one in which the tools that we have relied on in the past will have largely been removed. So, challenging times ahead.

An example of the problems which we are already starting to face, is the array of photovoltaic cells appearing within the townscape. Historically these have always required planning permission and quite frequently the Committee has objected. However, new legislation, based on a presumption that sustainability takes precedence over heritage, means that permission is no longer required. This is sad, as not only can these installations be visually intrusive, but their increasing size may well put a strain on ancient roofs that were not designed as load bearing. In fact the

whole question of the sustainability of this form of energy is increasingly suspect. For instance, we do not know what the lifespan of these cells will be nor if the output will decline with age. "Feed in tariffs" only run for twenty-five years and are not at a fixed rate, so that having committed to a significant capital outlay on the basis of current costing, a change in Government policy could well result in extended pay-back periods. For all these reasons and, of course, the cost in terms of energy to manufacture the product, we feel it is perhaps premature to brand photovoltaic and solar panels as entirely 'green' and certainly they should not be introduced indiscriminately to the cost of our built heritage.

In a period of recession, one would have expected a reduction in the number of planning applications but in fact there has been a significant increase. This may be due to the change from planning permission being valid for five years to now being valid for only three years and applicants having to renew applications to keep the permission active.



The reservoir south of Green Howards Road *Photograph: Mark Whyman*

We have witnessed some notable successes this year; in particular, the submission of a revised scheme for the reservoir south of Green Howards Road. The initial application included some ugly structures which were justified by the claim that they reflected the design of the existing pumping station. Since the existing structure has virtually no architectural merit this was a ludicrous claim and the revised plans are significantly improved. We also sought improved access for safety reasons and again this is included in the revised plans.

The RDC Planning Committee strongly supported our objection to the proposed café and outdoor seating, etc. in Friary Gardens. With others we made very strong representations, both in writing and at the site meeting and achieved a satisfactory result. However, we understand a revised plan is to be submitted, so we shall have to see what the new proposals hold.

Finally, the most unexpected example of the Planning Sub-Committee's work came about whilst considering an application for alterations to Arbour Hill near Patrick Brompton. This is a very fine building designed by John Carr to a design based on Palladio's Villa Godi in Italy. The applicant sought to open up windows that had been filled in during the twentieth century and to restore the original design. To our surprise we found that a textbook on sixteenth century Italian architecture was of practical use in the twenty-first century, as we were able to confirm that the proposal was in line with Palladio's drawing on which Carr had based Arbour Hill.

Going Solar in Richmond

Nick Reckert

Background

From the top of Frenchgate to Lennox House on Maison Dieu is barely 300 yards, yet on this short stretch of road there are no fewer than four solar hot water systems on rooftops, three sets of photovoltaic panels, and the home of a solar energy consultant. This may be the 'solar hub' of Richmond, but it is by no means unique; all round the town, quietly and with very little fuss, more and more solar installations are going up.



Hot water panels in Maison Dieu

Why? Does it even make sense to 'go solar' in a town which - let's be honest - is not famous for sunshine? And what special considerations arise in a historic setting like that of Richmond? In this short article, I look at domestic installations only - so the large array which is going up at The Station is not covered.

Terminology

There are two main types of solar panel. They look fairly similar, and are often confused:

- Hot water panels feed water heated by the sun into an ordinary hot water tank. In the warmer months they can provide all your hot water needs. Even over winter, they will probably add 20°C to your tank. They will not run your central heating, though.
- Photovoltaic (PV) panels produce electricity from the sun. It is possible (though expensive and inefficient) to store the electricity in batteries; unless you already live without mains electricity, such an 'off-grid' system probably isn't worth considering. In a more normal 'grid-tied' environment, solar electricity is used in the house as it is generated, and any surplus is exported and sold to the National Grid through a Feed-In Tariff.

Feed-In Tariff (FIT). The Government will pay you roughly 43p for every unit (kilowatt/hour, or kWh) of electricity you generate, even if you use it yourself. This compares with the 12p or so which you are probably paying now for your imported electricity - of which you will need less anyway, because more will be coming from your roof. The FIT will be reduced for new entrants every year from April 2012; but once you join you will continue on your joining rate, inflation-adjusted and tax-free, for 25 years. It's an astonishing offer.

Case studies: hot water panels

Jean Addington has six Sunuser panels, installed by her late husband twelve years ago on their house in Maison Dieu. "They were probably the

first in Richmond," she says. "Eric was an early adopter, and loved gadgets." There were no planning problems; "the Council was very keen". The panels produce an enormous amount of hot water, and Jean thinks two might have been enough. Installation was carried out by the suppliers, and was straightforward.

Ted Butcher, also in Maison Dieu, has four panels. "They regularly give us hot water at 70°C," he says. "It's so hot, we have to warn our guests." He also bought from Sunuser, whose engineers return every five years to service the system, at a cost of about £100.

John and Maura Deighton reckon their three Sunuser panels, on their house in High Pottergate, satisfy 50% of their hot water needs during a year. Their system required a 150-litre tank to be fitted in their attic, but even so the installation took just one day.

My own house in Maison Dieu has a single, large Solartwin panel. Installation was nightmarish, because the house is three stories high at the back, with no easy access. We probably broke every health-and-safety rule in the book. The system performs well and regularly produces a full tank of hot water at the end of the day.

Janet and Alan Quilley have had a frustrating time with the Solartwin panel on their Grade II listed house on Westfields. Their 2006 application, for an installation on a south-facing roof, was opposed by the Civic Society and rejected by RDC planners, and their appeal was turned down by the Planning Inspector. The panel was eventually installed on a modern, SW-facing piece of roof, which is partly shaded. As a result, effective operation of the panel is limited to roughly 11am to 4pm. They are pleased with the panel, but not as pleased as they might have been.

Michael B. writes that he "rather innocently responded to an advert. Needless to say the supplier was something of a fraud." However, he got his money back, kept the equipment, and had it installed on his modern house off Darlington Road by a local firm, "who did an excellent job." Like the Deightons' system, his called for a larger hot water tank. The only problem has been a slight buckling of the panel supports under the

weight of snow. Also, his wife feels the panel detracts from the look of the house.

Case studies: photovoltaics

Donald and Nina Cline installed 12 PV panels on their house in Frenchgate "to show our green credentials. And with the current FIT we could justify the expense." Installation took two days, with panels and labour from local firms - something Donald strongly recommends. The house is in a conservation area but is not listed, so paperwork was minimal. Performance is in line with the supplier's predictions.



Donald and Nina Cline's PV installation in Frenchgate

Once my wife and I had discovered how to thread long scaffolding poles through our house, we had 20 PV panels installed. The system is outperforming predictions, generating up to 19 units a day, and FIT payments arrive promptly in our bank account every quarter from our supplier, Good Energy. With low-wattage lightbulbs throughout the

house, our electricity bill has been cut by 87%, and we expect our full-year revenue to exceed our full-year electricity bill - in effect, we no longer pay for electricity at all.

Anne and Philip Wicks installed PV panels on their house off Olliver Road, for "financial return plus environmental benefits." They offer three pieces of useful advice:

- Shop around.
- Move fast, before FIT benefits are reduced.
- Don't 'sell your roof' to an installer who will pay for the panels but pocket the FIT - find the capital, if you possibly can.

Sheila and Phil Pearson are about to install PV on their house on Mill Croft. Sheila echoes the Wicks' advice about securing the finance up-front: "Find some serious money first; it may be a good investment but it's not cheap." As for motivation, "I want to contribute to renewable energy generation; Phil agrees in principle but only agreed to go ahead when he realised that such a project would pay for itself in a reasonable timescale." Her major concerns? "The integrity of the roof and the risk of leaks."

John Ward's house on Cravengate has a 9-panel PV array. The installation was completed in a day and went smoothly. Like a number of others, John's system was installed by DDR Electricals of Leyburn, to a brief from Tiptoe, an energy consultancy on the Aske Estate. John's only problem has been getting his electricity supplier to pay up. "Npower are unenthusiastic about paying me for my contribution to the National Grid," he wrote. At time of going to press, his long-promised cheque had disappeared en route, and so had its replacement.

John and Maura Deighton considered fitting PV panels, again from Sunuser, but felt the payback period looked unattractive. [Author's comment: Sunuser's estimate looked very expensive to me.]



Some of John Ward's PV panels in Cravengate

Sue and John Leitch have a Grade II listed house on Maison Dieu. Rather than risk planning wrangles over a rooftop system, they applied for (and received) approval for a 6-panel PV array in their garden. The planning process took longer than expected, because the planners were not used to dealing with ground-based arrays, but the system was quickly installed and is now up and running.

Lesley Meacham's house on Newbiggin is also Grade II listed. She plans to put PV on her south-facing roof, which is invisible from Newbiggin. Despite an objection from the Civic Society she received planning permission, and her system should be in place by publication. Again, her fitter is DDR Electricals, and she has "been impressed with their standards on previous work." Her reasons for fitting PV are "primarily environmental - so I can look my grandchildren in the eye," but she also points out that the financial return is better than almost anything else on offer.

Conclusions

Everyone I have spoken to has been pleased with 'going solar'. Several have found that their systems perform better than expected. Many of us get a childish pleasure from watching the input meter clicking round on a sunny day ("Oh, look, here comes another Watt!"). I certainly expect my PV panels to pay their way within 10 years, and to keep generating for at least another 15 years after that.

The key consideration is location. Ideally you need a moderately steep roof, orientated between SSE and SSW, with no shading from trees, chimney pots or neighbouring buildings. But even a less-than-ideal roof may give acceptable results. Alternatively, like the Leitches, you might consider siting your panels in your garden; this works better for PV than for hot water.

Several solar users commented that planning regulations seem at odds with the Government's sustainable-energy goals. To be fair, the regs seem to be becoming more tolerant; a good thing in my opinion, though some readers may disagree. At the same time, solar panels - which not even an enthusiast would claim are things of beauty - are beginning to look more innocuous. So if you have a listed property with a highly visible south-facing roof, solar slates may be acceptable to planners where big panels aren't, though there is no certainty in the matter: these are installed like standard slates and look pretty much like the real thing, but they generate electricity or heat water (though they are more expensive and less efficient than panels). In general, there are encouraging signs that planners and manufacturers are becoming more aware of each other's legitimate concerns.

The consensus among solar converts in Richmond seems to be:

- Hot water panels are satisfying to own, but slow to cover their (relatively) low costs. The payback will improve every year as gas prices rise.
- PV systems can generate significant amounts of electricity, even in North Yorkshire and even without direct sunlight.

- PV systems are an excellent investment. To get the best FIT rate, move fast.
- Use recommended local firms where possible. Don't try to work out the costs and benefits yourself; they can do that for you as part of their initial assessment.
- Don't assume the planners will be difficult. As Peter Featherstone, Head of Development Management at RDC, points out: "Since 2008, solar panels on unlisted buildings in Conservation Areas (even on front elevations) are now included as a form of 'permitted development' meaning that planning permission is not required." And even if planning permission is required, the Council is under pressure to fulfil its renewable energy targets, and will want to help you come to an arrangement. If in doubt, pop into the RDC Community Office in Dundas Street and ask.

Selected contacts and links

Solar energy consultancy and installation:

- Tim Longstaff, Tiptoe: tim.longstaff@tiptoe.eu; 01748 826344
- Steve Geater, DDR Electrical: ddr.steve@tiscali.co.uk; 01969 622260

The 1709 House

John Haslam

On 28 November 2009, 43 High Street, Catterick Village celebrated its three hundredth anniversary. Not that we have any evidence whatsoever that there had ever been an inauguration of the house on the same date three hundred years ago - it was simply that we felt that the anniversary should be recognised and 2009 was almost over. We did not want to get mixed up with Christmas, and time was running out.



You are welcome, one and all. *Photograph: Liz Allen*

The party for the birthday of the house saw the current residents dressed as their antecedents might have looked as they invited their guests to the house warming party on completion of the building, having lit the first

hearth. Mead was served as an accompaniment to chestnut stew and biscuits. Distant relatives from the court in London arrived pomandered and begowned, showing off their finery to the common folk of Catterick, who eyed them with suspicion, but were civil enough in the circumstances. Music of Mr Handel and Mr Bach was played on a digitally contrived machine that Mr Johnson had not yet added to his dictionary: a discus thrown compactly so as to shower the masses with musik. 2009 and 1709, and the centuries in between, intertwined mysteriously as the local residents shared anecdotes from the recent past while perusing the display of historical notes that covered the wall of the dining room above the fireplace which originally would have been a simple open hearth. The hearts of those assembled were kindled by the mead, ale and wine, and perhaps by the thought that a house that has seen so much should have been given its moment of glory on a damp, late autumn night.....

The history that was on display that night was a work in progress and still is. We have investigated a murky path that has many turns and dead ends, as do many local and specific histories of place and family; not many residences or families thought of themselves as the source of future interest as they went about their humble affairs two or three hundred years ago, and therefore the picture we have drawn so far has many blind spots and blanks. What is more, even though one of us may claim to have been a history teacher, we are amateur historians, and it has not been easy to find the time for the concentration, dedication and continuous commitment necessary to really get to the bottom of things.

So this is a sketchy account of the story of *the 1709 house* (as it's known in the village) based on what we have gleaned so far. It stands on the north west side of the High Street, which was once the Great North Road. Its date is inscribed above the door in the stone surround, described by Jane Hatcher as '... an architrave with imposts, set on a moulded backing with scrolled bases. The keystone, inscribed with the date 1709, extends up to the base of a scrolled pediment and paterae'[1]. The house has been called 'Old Manor' but we do not know whether it ever had the status of a

[1] Richmondshire Architecture, by Jane Hatcher ,1990

manor, or whether this is a more recent attempt to match the grandness of the front door with a suitable title.

We are fairly sure that the early days of the house are connected with the Strickland family who owned land in the Catterick area. There is a 1739 map of Catterick in which the Hall Pastures area shows a house represented in much the same spatial relationship to St Anne's Church as 43 High Street is now. Peter Wenham's monograph about Roger Strickland, the Jacobite gentleman who lived in Oglethorpe House in Richmond, notes that he inherited the land round Catterick from his aunt, Mary Braithwait, second wife to Sir Richard Braithwait, formerly of Westmoreland, whose father had purchased both the Manor House in Catterick and East Appleton Hall[2]. Mary left twelve farms around Catterick to her nephew, and one of these must have surely been the farm that was attached to the house. In Roger's marriage settlement to Catherine Scrope in 1725, reference is made to the twelve farms of Catterick and it lists the former and present occupiers of the residences there. Before 1725 there had been thirteen occupiers and after this there is a list of twenty names; one John Carter is the only name to appear on both lists.

From 1722 onwards Roger Strickland kept a detailed accounts book that gives an insight into the typical daily purchases a Yorkshire gentleman of the time would make. Some of the invoices refer to work done on the twelve farms at Catterick and are to do with fencing, draining, mending, and servicing the farms and their surroundings. There are references to some of the men and women mentioned in the second list of people attached to the farms: 'paid Mr Wellbank for things at Catterick' for example. He also gave to the poor at Catterick.

Sir Roger Strickland was a Catholic supporter of James II and spent the years 1706 to 1718 at the court of the exiled Stuarts at St Germain in France. During this time his properties were confiscated by the Crown, who valued those around Catterick at £350. He proved to the Crown that

[2] Roger Strickland of Richmond, by L P Wenham (North Yorkshire County Records Office Publications No. 30 - July 1982)

he took no part in the 1715 failed Jacobite rebellion (though his brother Francis did), and successfully won back his property and the right to return home. His son, Roger but nicknamed Poddy, was rather wayward: he got into debt and married a street woman or wench, and although he lived for a brief time in Catterick, he made little of the agricultural estate that could have helped him recover his prosperity, not to mention his dignity. His younger brother, Robert, inherited the Catterick estate; he died unmarried in 1778. The estate fell to his sister Frances and then to her son William Valentine, who died childless in 1819. The estate went to his cousin Patrick Power who took on the name of Mannock. At this point our sources have dried up and there is a gap between the Strickland dynasty and the nineteenth century families who take up the tale.

In the nineteenth century the household is recorded in various directories and censuses, though it is not always easy to identify the property exactly in the records. We are fairly sure that during the nineteenth century the house was occupied by a family of butchers and by schoolmasters, though the latter occupancy was for a very brief period in the 1870s. The Baines Directory of 1823 refers to two butchers: George and Joseph Dunn. We think it was Joseph Dunn's family who occupied the house for much of the nineteenth century. He married Margaret, who in 1841 gave birth to a daughter, given the same name. This second Margaret is mentioned in the 1926 deeds to the house as dying the year before, at the age of 85. She married John William Earle and is commemorated on a gravestone in St. Anne's churchyard. In her will she left the house to her three nephews who sold it to Thornton Wright Mitcalfe from Darlington.

There is an interlude in the 1870s when the Dunns do not seem to be in direct occupancy of the house, though they probably still were the owners. The first mention of Catterick School is in the 1871 census which names



The front door of No. 43 *Photograph: Jude Haslam*

William Peacock and Frederick Swanston as joint partners and schoolmasters. At that time they had fourteen pupils boarding there, which was a very small establishment compared with the Roman Catholic school round the corner which had seventy four pupils listed in the same census. The school took day boys as well. In 1881 it was still functioning with twenty-four boys on the boarding register. Then in 1891 there is no mention of the school; nor is it mentioned in Kelly's Directory of 1889 and Bulmer's Directory of 1890. In the 1891 census for Scorton, William Peacock is recorded as being the headmaster of the Grammar School there, while Fred Swanston was living in a different house in Catterick with his family where they took in pupil boarders. Both men now taught at Scorton Grammar School. Although small, the school had been successful and sent several pupils to Cambridge and Durham universities and the Law Society, and this possibly accounts for the move to Scorton, where they could expand and develop. In the 1871 census there is listed one John Peacock, probably a son of William and Mary Peacock, as a groom in the village; this is the man who was father to the grandfather of Clifford Peacock who currently lives at 41 High Street. Blocked-in walls between number 43 and the houses on both sides suggest that when the house was used as a boarding school the buildings on either side served as part of the establishment. [3]

The 1823 Baines Directory lists a John James Taylor as a tailor in Catterick. We have been supplied information by Jim Crowley of Catterick that his wife's family, the Taylors, lived in our house from the 1870s onward. This appears to conflict with some of the other evidence we have. In 1871 a William Taylor and his wife, Anne, both 48 years of age, lived at what we think of as no. 41, with two sons and a daughter. However, although they disappeared from the 1881 and 1891 census returns, by 1901 John James Taylor, a tailor, is listed as living in our house with his wife Margaret and their four children: Ethel aged 9, Herbert 6, Mabel 4 and William 2, who was born in the house. We have been told by Jim, whose mother is still living in the village, that the house

[3] Thanks go to Doreen Sandford for much of the information about Catterick School.

provided not only a home for the family but also a work place for John and his tailoring. John James Taylor was also a Colour Sergeant for Catterick D Company, a Division of The Yorkshire Volunteers. It is said that No. 43 High Street was used as a store for some of the arms.

John's wife died in 1909, but we do not know whether John was still in the house when the owner, Margaret Earle, died in 1925, leaving the house to her nephews, who sold it to Thornton Mitcalfe a year later. He rented it to Joseph and Margaret Wright, and she sold fish from the front room, which by then had become a shop. In 1928, when the River Swale and local beck both flooded the village, (dead) fish from the shop were seen floating through the doorway attempting an escape. Margaret went on to run the Cosy Café from the front room. Her daughter, Pam, was born in 1934, and remembers her mother baking cakes on the range in the first floor room, which is now our bedroom, and carrying them down to the customers seated below. During this period (1930s to 1950s) the house was divided and shared with Mrs Best, who took in lodgers. It has been fascinating to talk with Pam, who still lives in the village; she can remember the layout of the house and garden as they were in her childhood, so it has been interesting for her to see the nature of the changes that have since been made. In the late 1970s the house was designated a grade II listed building and was bought by Richmondshire Council; the retail features were removed and the house restored to being solely a domestic residence that was then sold on in the early 1980s.

Much of this information is in the display that covers the wall behind the present day family in the photograph. Local residents who joined us for the anniversary on 28 November enjoyed browsing this and recounting the tales of the village that have characterised the more recent past. We do not know whether the ghosts of the house enjoyed listening in on these conversations, but it is our intention to investigate further to see if we can listen in on them and their own tales of *the 1709 house*.

It was intended to publish this article during the actual anniversary year, but pressures of time and space prevented this happening. -Ed

Looking back

Canon Richard Cooper, Rector of Richmond with Hudswell, Downholme and Marske 1998 - 2009

I remembered the view. Christopher Clarkson describes it in his History of Richmond as 'the finest view from any Rectory in England.' It is the view from the Rectory sitting room that looks down over the Swale to Easby Abbey. I first saw it in the spring of 1974, from that same window, as I was being interviewed for the post of Curate. I was offered the job but there was a problem over finding a suitable house, which meant that in the event I took a post in North Leeds with Christopher White's old boss Canon Donald Thompson. This was fortunate as curates very rarely become the vicars or rectors in the parishes in which they once served. Twenty four years later I should see the same view again, this time from my Rectory window! The Rectory is a fine house in which to live, at the edge of the country with a market town at your back with all that one could wish for. This was the best of times for me and for the family.

St.Mary's Church is also hugely impressive and quite up to its role as the Parish Church of Richmond. Having been brought up in a village where the church was at the heart of the community's life, where my father was Churchwarden and my mother the President of the WI, it is not surprising that my own view of what it means to be 'Church' should be inclusive. 'None must, all may' was very much the watchword of my ministry, shaped by my early experience, and I hope that this has coloured that ministry over 40 years in the various parishes in which I have served. If this is what it means to be The Established Church of England then I am proud to be an Establishment figure – which I suppose I am as Chaplain to The Queen!

Well, if that is what I had to offer Richmond then Richmond had a great deal more to offer me. The church building has features from every century: ancient stonework, Tudor choir stalls with their misericords, fine

eighteenth century memorials, an elegant nineteenth century restoration by Sir Gilbert Scott, an exceptional early twentieth century organ, a lovely reredos with iconography from the 1940s, beautiful embroidery and unique vestments and altar frontal to mark the millennium, and quality stained glass from the early part of this century. If my memory is to be associated with anything in the building then I would like to think that I am remembered as the Rector who restored the Harrison Organ and who supported the projects for the modern stained glass windows. English Church Music is second to none and in the preservation of the organ we made it possible to continue that established choral tradition in the Parish Church. The three modern stained glass windows are also significant for me. Ruth's Window – still too moving to speak of – a triumph of faith and life and love over all that threatens to destroy. Tom's Window - such a fine tribute to a man who so quietly and unassumingly not only enriched the lives of his many pupils but also the life of Richmond as he founded the Subscription Concerts, supported Katherine in her public life and preached sermons in the Parish Church that people still remember. The Guild Window commemorating the life of the Town's ancient Livery Companies which opened up for me a world that would otherwise have been closed.

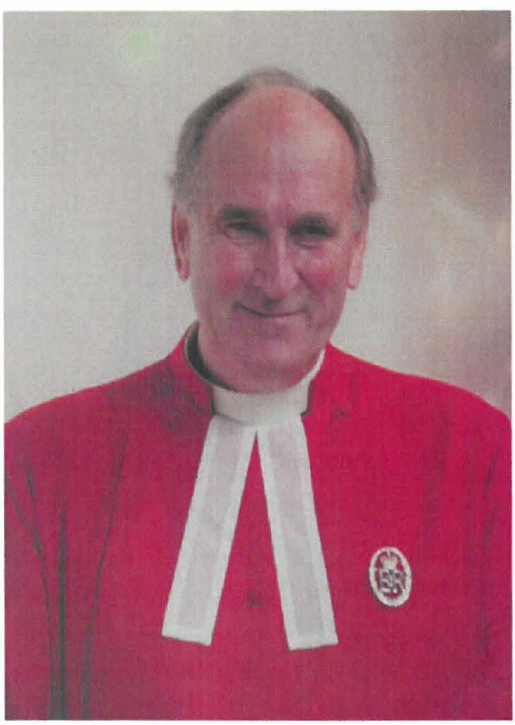
The Dean of the Chapel Royal once asked me if I had been up to London recently. I told him that I had, I had been dining with the Worshipful Company of Mercers. He was clearly shocked as he had never received such an invitation to dine with them himself. 'How did you manage that?' I told him that I was the Warden of the Richmond Company of Mercers and we had a well established custom of attending each other's dinners.

St.Mary's also provided another interesting and unique link, that to The Green Howards. The Church houses the Regimental Chapel and now all the Colours and Battle Honours of that great Regiment. It was General Sir Richard Dannatt who appointed me as Regimental Chaplain and who presented me with my Green Howards' tie. It was a great privilege to meet with him on several occasions and as he is a churchman he was very supportive of my role. The Green Howards did of course have the most senior ranking officers in the British Army including that of Field Marshall The Lord Inge. General Sir Nicholas Haughton asked me to become the first Regimental Chaplain to the newly formed Yorkshire

Regiment, of which he was Colonel, and I have just relinquished that post, as his Colonelcy has now come to an end. I had to tell a Bishop that I could not attend one of his meetings as I was dining with the King of Norway in the Tower of London. Not bad for an excuse!

So much to look back on. One of the sad things about retiring is that one is discouraged from living in the Parish in order to allow a clean break between you and your successor. There are times when I wish that I had never been the Rector so that I could live in Richmond now, but then I would not have had twelve such satisfying and enjoyable years among a people who gave me so much friendship and support. I have not dwelt on the church life of St.Mary's or the village churches at Hudswell, Downholme and Marske as this article is for the Civic Society Review and I have wanted to emphasise that side of my life as Rector. However, they were the best of churches to be part of and gave me the most significant ministry of my priestly life.

I shall always be grateful for that and, looking back, smile with pleasure for what has been.



Photograph: John Harris

The Guild Window, St. Mary's Church

Mike Wood

Some time ago my wife Sue and I attended a window dedication to a London Livery Company at St. Margaret's Lothbury in the City. Whilst travelling home we thought that it would be an excellent idea to see if we could have a Fellmongers' window in our church. Drawings were prepared and submitted to the Rector for approval. He suggested a Richmond Guild Window which would also include the badge of the Mercers, Grocers and Haberdashers. The design and construction of the window was awarded to stained glass artist Alan Davis, who had recently completed the magnificent Gedye window. The window was installed and on Wednesday 6th July was dedicated by the Bishop of Ripon.

It was also decided to incorporate three existing earlier coats of arms into the design. On the left panel, from top to bottom, is firstly the armorial, according to Clarkson, of Christopher Urswicke, Archdeacon of Richmond in 1493, who added to the family arms a saltire or cross in consequence of his being an ecclesiastic. Fellmongers in Richmond incorporated Skinners and Glovers and accordingly their arms are those of the Worshipful Company of Skinners (centre) and the Worshipful Company of Glovers (below). On the right panel at the top is a coat of arms of unknown origin. Clarkson believed it to be the assumed arms of some obscure Archdeacon in the fourteenth century who could not afford to have them regularly entered at the College of Arms. Below this are the Royal Arms of France and England possibly 15th century and those of Henry V1. The lower shield is that of the Mercers, Grocers and Haberdashers. This is an amalgamation of the livery arms of the Worshipful Company of Mercers, the Worshipful Company of Grocers and the Worshipful Company of Haberdashers, all of the City of London.

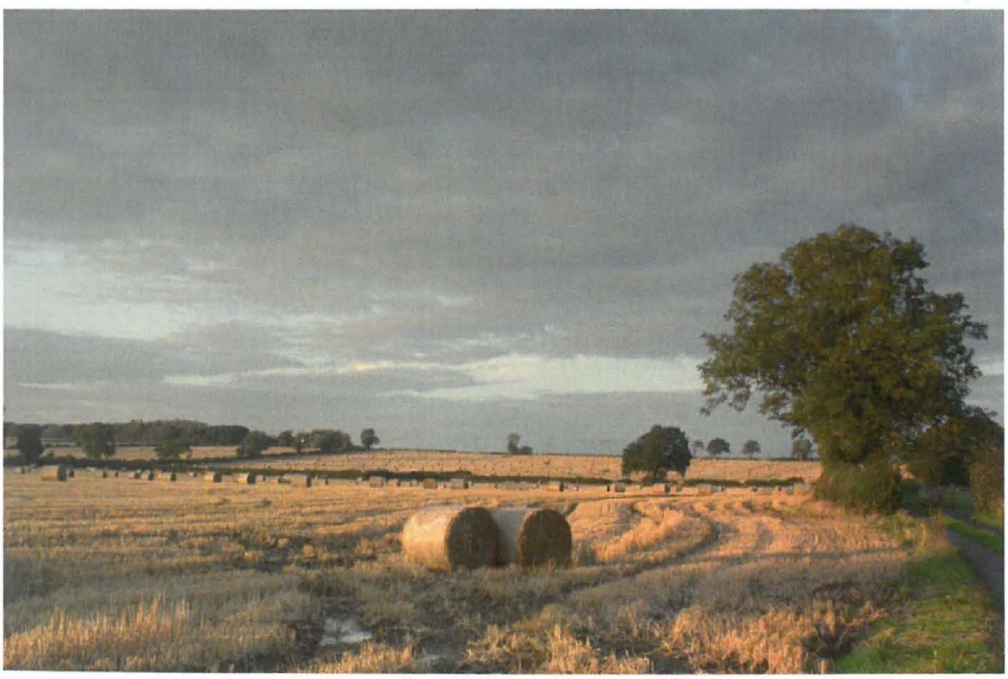
Mike Wood is a Freeman and Liveryman of the City of London and Clerk to the Company of Fellmongers. Our back cover features the design drawing for the Guild Window – Ed.

A Portrait of Richmondshire

Henrietta Byrne

We are pleased to feature this year the work of Richmond photographer Henrietta Byrne. Henrietta's interest in photography grew alongside her appreciation of Richmond, where she has lived for almost thirty years. Initially she joined the local camera club and a few years later was awarded a Licentiateship with the Royal Photographic Society. As well as photographing the town and its hinterland, she soon specialised in flower photography and this work has been used for several years to advertise the Harrogate Flower Shows.

For a long time Henrietta had been aware that no pictorial record of the Georgian town of Richmond existed and, spotting this gap in the book market, she negotiated a deal with the publisher Halsgrove, specialists in pictorial Britain. The result of this has been the publication of her book, 'A Portrait of Richmondshire', which is available to buy from Castle Hill Bookshop. -Ed



Evening light at Skeeby, 2008



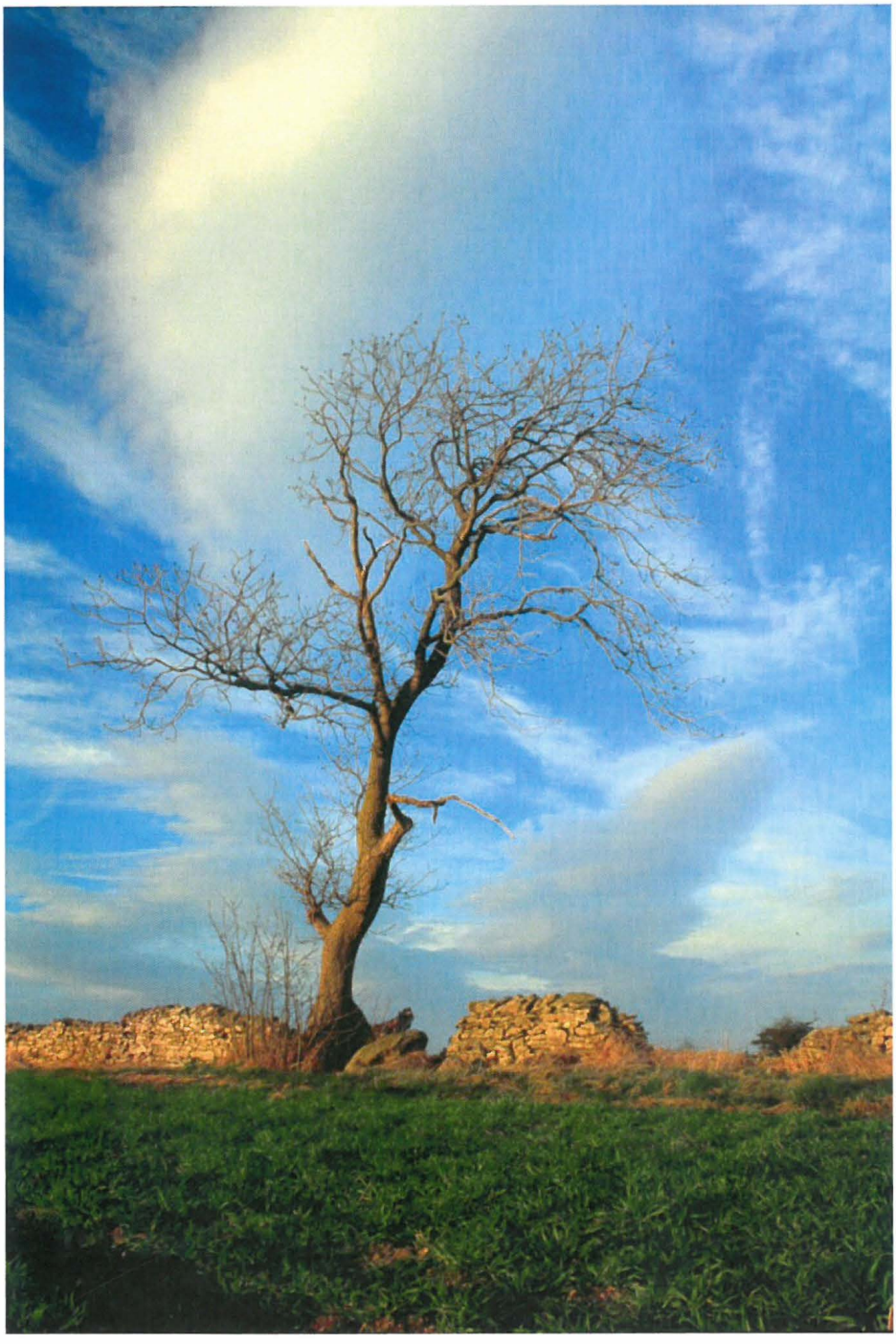
The Infirmary, Easby, 2010



Olliver Ducket's Tower, 2008



Study of a lone tree at sunset, MOD land, 2008



Study of a lone tree, Richmond Racecourse, 2008



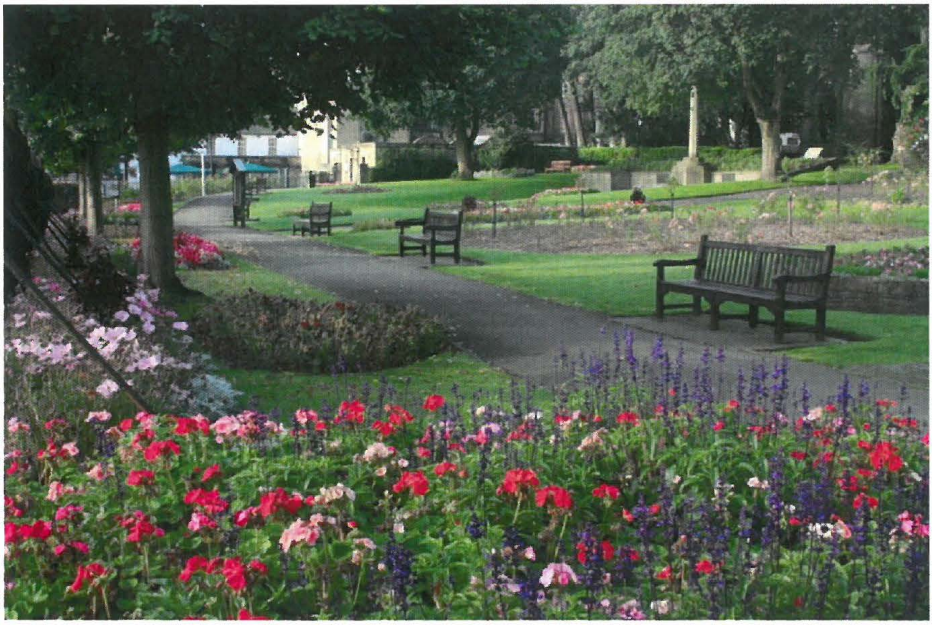
Evening sun on Richmond Castle, November 2008



Richmond townscape at sunrise



Richmond from the Easby path



The Friary Gardens

The Hudswell Air Disaster

Tina McDonald

The quiet village of Hudswell sits comfortably on the edge of the Yorkshire Dales; pretty cottages and well-kept gardens add to its simple charm. It's difficult to imagine anything that could threaten its air of calm and its timeless sense of tranquillity, but sixty years ago this village was the scene of a devastating air disaster that left eight airmen dead and many villagers fearful for their own lives.

In 1951 RAF Leeming was using the Martinet aircraft as a target aircraft for crews being trained in the use of interception radar. On August 13th, a Martinet and a Wellington bomber set off from RAF Leeming; each aircraft contained one cadet from the 1869 (Middlesbrough) Air Training Corps (ATC). For the cadets attending summer camp at RAF Leeming, it was their first flight. In the Martinet was ATC Corporal Malcolm Bruton from Middlesbrough, with Flt.Lt. Hannay. In the Wellington, was ATC Cadet Derek Coates, aged only sixteen, another local boy from Middlesbrough. Six other crew were in the plane, including three trainee navigators; these were commissioned officers with flying experience. One, Flt.Lt. John Quinton, was an experienced night-fighter navigator who had been awarded the DFC in 1946. The citation for his DFC reads:

'This officer has displayed commendable courage and devotion to duty in air operations. He is a navigator of high merit and has proved a valuable acquisition to the squadron. He has assisted in the destruction of three enemy aircraft.'

Tragically, Flt.Lt. Quinton's courage was to be tested further.

Taking off in opposite directions, both aircraft were soon flying at between 8-10,000 feet. Within ten minutes and without warning, cloud closed in and visibility plummeted. When the Martinet appeared out of the cloud, it was fatally close to the Wellington and collision was

inevitable. Both planes were torn to pieces by the impact and the wreckage was spread over a wide area, narrowly missing houses in the village. One eye-witness ran round the village calling out to householders that a crash was imminent.

Mr Fred Carr of Village Farm said, "We heard a thud in the air and within a few seconds there were splinters and bits of all kinds falling from the clouds... the starboard engine, torn from the plane, missed our house by only a few yards. We were sure we were for it and the horses and cows stampeded round the field." He added, "We had been haymaking only fifteen minutes before in the field where the plane dived in." Rain and low cloud had interrupted haymaking and, sadly, these same factors probably caused the sudden loss of visibility that led to such tragic consequences for the aircrew.

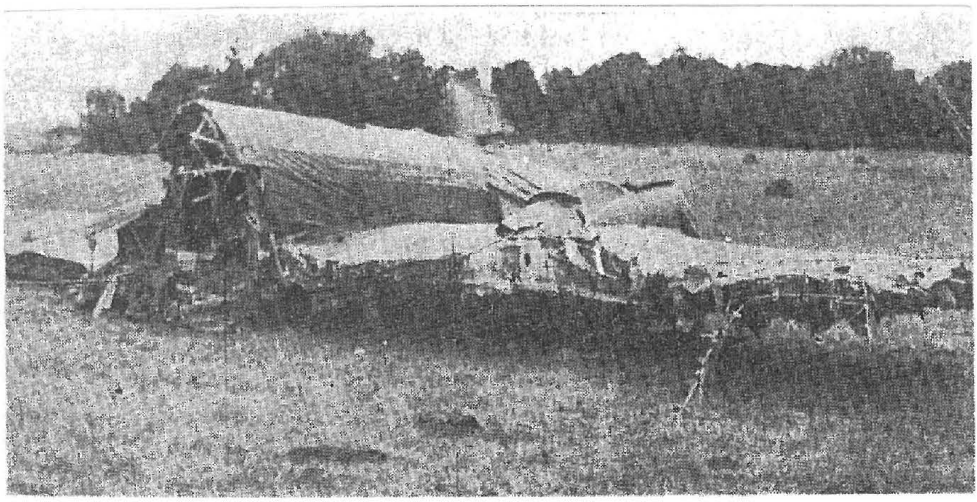
The Martinet went into a dive and both crew members were killed instantly; wreckage from the two-seater was found as far as a mile away.

The Wellington, meanwhile, after going into an uncontrollable spin, began to break up in mid-air. On the ground, Mr Fred Parkin of Low Cottage, said later, "On seeing the plane coming down I ran up the street to warn people at the nearest houses. From what I remember it would be a couple of minutes before the plane piled in – but it seemed like eternity...." In the air, those vital minutes enabled one man to make a decision of enormous courage. As the Wellington broke up, Flt.Lt Quinton picked up the only parachute still within reach and clipped it onto ATC Cadet Derek Coates. He then helped him through a hole where the tail section had once been attached, clear of the crashing aircraft and to a future that was to be denied to the rest of the crew.

As the young cadet tumbled to the ground, villagers ran to help; the bodies of the pilot and co-pilot were discovered, still in their seats at the front of the aircraft but, sadly, the bodies of the rest of the crew were dispersed over a wider area. Derek Coates was guided to the home of Mr and Mrs C.A.Tyson who, with typical English kindness, offered him a cup of tea as Nurse Atkinson, who had hurried to the scene, treated him for shock and a gash on the head.

In all, eight airmen died and, for Derek Coates, came the realization that he owed his life to the supreme self-sacrifice of Flt.Lt. John Quinton. Villagers, too, gave thanks for the miracle that left them and their village unscathed by this tragic event.

Two months after the accident, Flt.Lt. Quinton DFC was awarded a posthumous George Cross.



The wreckage of the Wellington. *Photograph: The Northern Echo*

2011 saw the 60th anniversary of this disaster and John Ward, together with his wife Caroline, became determined to mark this occasion and make the story more available to others. A plaque was erected in the Hudswell Jubilee Gardens to commemorate the event, those who had died, and the extraordinary act of courage by Flt.Lt. Quinton. On the 13th August about 250 people gathered for the unveiling of the plaque and to remember this tragic accident. The ceremony, which began with a parade of Air Cadets from Middlesbrough and Richmond, provided many moving and thought provoking moments. Speakers included Flt.Lt. Alfie Hall from RAF Leeming and Flt.Lt. Rachel Mason from Air Training Corps Middlesbrough. John Horseman spoke on behalf of witnesses to the accident, a number of whom were present at the ceremony, and the Rector of Richmond and Hudswell, John Chambers, offered sage words.

Most moving were the words from Roger Quinton, son of John. Only one year old when his father had died, he had grown up with the knowledge of his supreme self sacrifice.

Derek Coates himself, now living in Australia, aged 75, was unable to attend the event because of ill health but he had sent a letter which John Ward read out. All those attending this event could not fail to have been moved by this poignant ceremony: the memory of those young lives lost; that extraordinary act of courage remembered; the simple kindness of strangers recalled; the young cadets who marched so proudly; the plaintive sound of the trumpet and the last post; the minute's silence which enabled us to think profoundly about all we had heard and witnessed; the opportunity to give thanks to those who had worked so that none of this should be forgotten. But most moving of all was Derek Coates' letter, its simple words expressing such powerful emotion:

"...simply I owe him my life. What more can I say. There is hardly ever a week goes by without I think of him. To me words are never enough. I could go on for evermore thanking him for what he has given me."



The wording on the plaque is reproduced on the next page.

On 13th August 1951 a Wellington bomber and a Martinet trainer from RAF Leeming collided over Hudswell.

Seven airmen and an air cadet died. Only air cadet Derek Coates survived. Flt. Lt. John Quinton was awarded a posthumous George Cross for clipping Coates into the only accessible parachute before the Wellington split in two and Coates fell out. Witnesses saw parts of the aircraft rain down on the village. Miraculously no one on the ground was hurt.

This plaque commemorates those who died.

Cadet Corporal Malcolm Bruton

Pilot Officer Frank Leslie Farrell

Pilot Officer Edwin George Percival Garrett

Flight Lieutenant Alexander Hannay

Flying Officer Peter Frederick Keeling

Flying Officer Dawyck George McLeod Veitch

Flight Lieutenant John Alan Quinton GC DFC

Flying Officer George Michael Trotman

May their names live forever

Erected on the 60th anniversary

Baby Isabella

Jane Hatcher

A story factually based on historical records - all the names and dates are from documented events

It was a warm sunny Saturday in August 1717. Margaret Bowes was in Richmond, hoping to see her beau. She had made an excuse to travel in to the town with her father Roger and sister Elizabeth when he came in to the market. The girls had given him the slip when he started haggling with a farmer over the price of some barley. Margaret scurried over to the Shambles near the old Market Cross to look for George Clarkson, the young butcher she had been seeing for about four years.

They had talked about getting married, and she had pictured herself on her father's arm walking up the aisle of Marrick Church, just a few yards from where they lived on the site of the former Priory. But Roger had curtly dismissed her pleas, saying he couldn't afford to let her marry yet as there were other offspring in the family, and her older brother George would have to be married first.

Margaret was the eldest daughter, now nearly 25, and she did not want to lose her George, a rugged-looking young man, powerfully-built after several years lifting carcases of slaughtered animals for the older butchers to cut up. Elizabeth, the next sister at 22, ran after Margaret and George as they scurried hand in hand down to the Green Bridge, where she stood watching the many market carts coming in and out of the town while the young couple ran off into Billy Banks Wood to continue their courting. The girls knew they must get back to their father before long, and further, they had to find time to buy some ribbons and lace, so that they could persuade him they had taken a long time choosing their purchases.

Safely back on the cart, the girls travelled home with their father. Later they could indulge their giggling discussion of what had happened

between Margaret and George. Things between them had gone further than before, and Elizabeth expressed horror, but Margaret dismissed her concerns, saying if there were consequences, perhaps their father would relent and let her marry George.

But there was to be no wedding. When with hopeful anticipation she gave George her news, he not only refused to marry her, but confessed that he had fathered a child with another girl, also called Margaret, at almost the same time. Richmond girl Margaret Foss was to have her own bastard daughter christened Margaret in Richmond Parish Church on 2 June that same year.

On Wednesday 7 May, Margaret Bowes gave birth at home in Marrick to a healthy baby girl. Her parents told her she was not to keep the baby, and the next day her mother Dorothy instructed Elizabeth to carry the child away and find a nurse to bring her up, saying she wanted to hear no more about it. The girls did not dare disobey her.

So, on the evening of that Thursday 8 May, Elizabeth first bound the infant's belly in a clean linen cloth, dressed her in a linen shift, plus a woollen petticoat. She wrapped the baby's head in a linen forehead cloth and put two caps on it, before placing her in an old basket. She boiled some water with sugar and put it in a clean bottle. Then, between 9 and 10 at night, as it got dark, she set off with the basket, stopping only to give the baby some of the sugared water. At 2 in the morning on Friday 9 May she reached the small village of Skeeby. Stopping outside the best house in the village, she gently set down the sleeping newborn's basket on a stone bench five or six yards from the front door, and returned home to Marrick, where her mother asked for no account of what she had done.

As light broke over Skeeby between 4 and 5 that morning, Thomas Clarke's serving girl got up from her attic bedroom, came quietly downstairs to start her household chores, beginning as usual with stirring up the embers in the huge kitchen fireplace. Theirs was the largest house in the village, built in stone and towering tall over its inferior lath and plaster neighbouring cottages. She put her head round the door of the main room, larger than the entire floor area of most village houses. Later

she must remember to lay the fire in its enormous moulded fireplace, as the evenings were still chilly.

Then she heard a strange sound and looked round, expecting to see the cat who often got in her way begging for its morning drink of milk as she sleepily started her day's work. But this morning the cat was nowhere to be seen. The noise went again. Puzzled she looked out through the mullioned front windows, but could see nothing. Again she heard the unexpected sound, so she quietly opened the heavy oak door, and saw to her surprise a basket on the nearby bench. She was sure the basket hadn't been there the previous day. The noise came again from the basket and she peered inside, then screamed with surprise at what she saw - a tiny, hungry baby.

Not knowing what to do, she ran back inside through to the staircase. Upstairs she apologetically roused the lady of the house. Jane Clarke was the younger second wife of the now-elderly owner of the house, Thomas Clarke, but she had given him two handsome sons, Thomas and Christopher. Now 12 and 10, they were safely asleep in their upstairs room, although another little son, James, who had been born the previous December, was, sadly, a sickly baby.

Jane Clarke rushed downstairs to investigate the young girl's incoherent account that something was amiss, a hysterical tale of a crying baby outside, but little James was sleeping in his cradle. Sure enough, there it was, wrapped in an old blanket, in a basket, outside their house. She brought the basket inside, away from the damp dewy air, and set it down in the kitchen beside the fire. Reaching inside to lift out the baby, she found the bottle of sugared water, and realised it had been abandoned by someone who was not its mother.

The little girl was clearly very young, no more than two days at most. Where could she have come from? How had she got onto the bench outside their house? Jane sent the girl upstairs to fetch the dry baby clothes little James had outgrown.

Over the weekend the word spread round the village of Skeeby that the infant had been found, and brains were searched for whose she might be. No one could think of a local woman who might fit the bill, and the

general opinion was that the larger population of Richmond was more likely to have someone who might have produced an unwanted baby. Someone even suggested that a woman known as Widow Ingleby was a likely candidate. It was decided that first thing on the Monday morning two respectable men from the village would go into Richmond and report the matter to the Mayor, the local magistrate.

As Robert Hartley and James Allen descended Frenchgate they stopped the first person they met to ask where the Mayor lived, and were directed to a house on the west side of the Market Place. They entered the shop premises and explained to the assistant that they needed urgently to speak to the Mayor. Thomas Metcalfe came through and when he heard their incredible story he sent an apprentice to fetch one of the serjeants-at-mace to write it down. Metcalfe asked Hartley and Allen to swear an oath to tell the truth. Their account was written down and they signed it. The document could be presented as evidence the next time the Richmond Borough Quarter Sessions met in the Common Hall early in July, and the Mayor promised that enquiries would be made.

Robert Hartley and James Allen returned home and reported what they'd done. There was nothing else which could be done officially for the present, but in the meantime the baby had to be looked after. Fortunately Thomas and Jane Clarke were people of substance, to whom an extra mouth to feed was not a problem. A son from Thomas's first marriage, also Thomas, and his wife Elizabeth, had four young children now aged between 9 and 2, so they too had plenty of things for a baby.

Mercifully the newborn girl seemed a healthy baby, but supposing she were to fall sick? It was considered essential that she be baptized in case the worst happened. Someone would have to arrange this.

Fortunately old Mr Kirton, the long-serving Vicar of Easby, was due to come over from Hipswell for one of his rare appearances to take Morning Service that coming Sunday. He was more likely to be sympathetic to a request to baptize a foundling baby free of charge than the curate, Rev Nicholson, a dirty old man frequently up before the courts for drunkenness and lewd behaviour.

There had been considerable discussion about the Christian name the child, who after all had no known family name, should be given. Jane Clarke handed the baby to the old parson at the Norman font, and asked him to call her after the servant girl who had found her. The Easby Parish Register records the Baptism on 18 May 1718 of "Isabella, a child found in Skeeby".

Meanwhile, enquires were set in motion as to who might have abandoned the baby girl. In mid-June that summer, at a meeting of the North Riding Quarter Sessions held in Thirsk, three women were summoned to explain their actions. First, Dorothy Bowes, the wife of Roger, of 'Marrick Abbey', gave evidence that she had seen a female child born to her daughter Margaret on 7 May, and the following day had told her daughter Elizabeth to carry the child away and put it to a nurse, and on her return did not ask what had become of it.

Next Margaret Bowes, a single woman, testified that Richmond butcher George Clarkson, having made suit to her for 4 years on the pretence of marriage, had just once persuaded her to let him have carnal knowledge of her, and he was the only man who had done so, and that she and her sister Elizabeth had consulted together to carry the resulting child away with the consent of their mother.

The following day Elizabeth Bowes told the court in detail how on 8 May she had wrapped up the baby girl of her sister, and between 9 and 10 that night set out with it, and arriving at Skeeby at 2 in the morning, had set the child down on a stone bench at "the best like house" she could see.

It would seem that the Bowes family was ordered to take baby Isabella back with them to Marrick. The Marrick parish register records the burial on 12 December 1725 of "Issabell Bowes, a girl", without any parentage being given. If it was the same child, she would have been 7½.

George Bowes would marry soon after Isabella's birth, and went on to have three children, Ellin, George and Thomas. Ellin had a baby, Mary, to someone called Alderson, when she was 22. Margaret and Elizabeth's younger sister Jane also gave birth to a bastard child, John, in 1724.

A Friendly Milepost

Colin Stegeman

One day in the autumn of 1994 I was painting the cast iron mile marker on Reeth Road opposite the turning for Round Howe, just a mile from the town. I was continuing a task started by another member, the late John Lear, as part of the Civic Society's endeavour to preserve the street furniture which had been abandoned by the North Yorkshire County Council once Richmond had lost its status as a borough. As I worked, along came a chap with a rather rakish-looking lurcher dog. As he passed he said, "Are yer on wi' Council, then?" Without waiting for a reply he continued, "Yon's a good friend o' mine," pointing at the mile marker. "A few years back I wus walkin' home wi' mi dog at about four in't mornin'. Ah wus just 'ere when a Police car passed. He stopped about 100 yards on and started t' reverse. Quick as a flash I took the two rabbits out o' mi pocket an' stuffed 'em behind t'post. You'll know there's a gap between it and t'wall. When the Bobbies got back t' me, they ast me to turn out mi pockets. Ah did. Empty! Ah teld 'em I alus tek mi dog out early in a mornin'. They drove off and I went on, but ah kem back after mi breckfust an' got mi rabbits. Aye, it's a friendly post, is that."

Now that I no longer live in the Richmond area, I hope that the tradition started by John Lear is carried on by others. Richmond's heritage is too good to be lost – and, in any case, you never know who might come along!



Photograph: Colin Stegeman

Richmond, Turner and the Picturesque

Bev Joicey

Turner, probably England's greatest painter, made three separate visits to Richmond - in 1797, 1816 and 1825 – so it is reasonable to ask what brought him?

He came to paint an idealised and imagined English landscape for those wealthy patrons who wanted pictures on their walls that showed their country as that classical landscape of Virgil and Ovid that they knew from their early education. In these texts, they had found an ideal of rusticity, where man lived a peaceful, pious and simple life fed by the fruits of the earth: a world of undulating hills, swift, clear streams and dramatic waterfalls, overhanging trees, ruined buildings, contented sheep and workers at ease with themselves. And the selective vision of Turner could find all this hereabouts in Richmond, much as many still do.

Eighteenth century wealth meant that landowners could further their own and their sons' classical education by touring Europe on their equivalent of the Gap Year, the Grand Tour, visiting the sights and settings that they had read about and searching out the ideal landscape. With some wishful thinking and the support of helpful locals, they found it amongst the ruins of the past civilisations of Rome and Greece. Temples, statues, pools, grottoes and waterfalls abounded throughout such places, surrounded by a backdrop of blue hills, mountains and apparently uncomplicated rural life.

These young aristocrats brought back this vision to England in the form of ornaments, statues, pictures and dreams. Paintings that had previously been simply possessions and a celebration of the owner's importance now became a way of bringing home what had been seen in Europe. So, the aristocratic tourists found the artists, who, in their turn, found the landscapes the young travellers wanted to see.

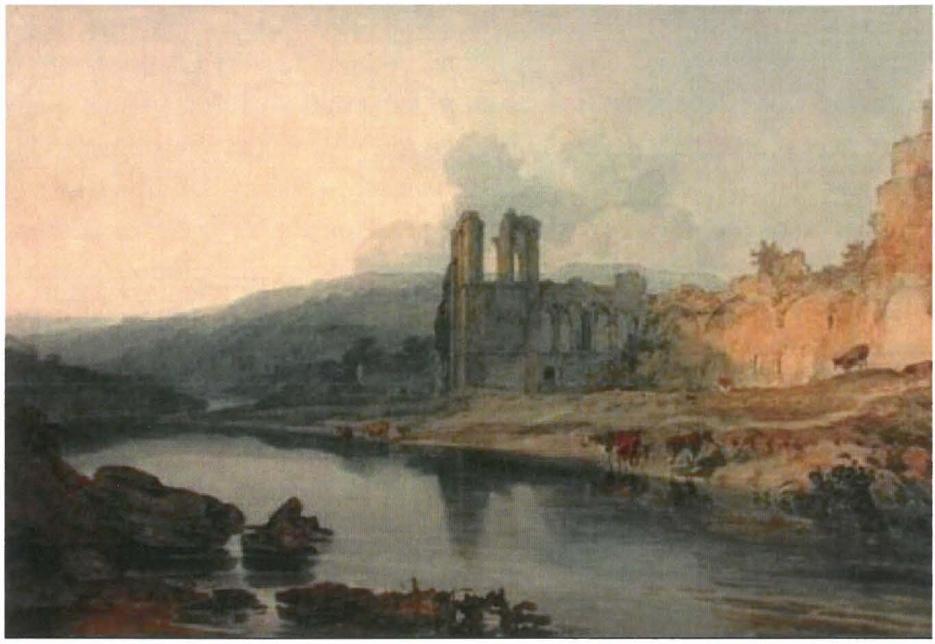
To ensure the image created was what the traveller wanted, each successful artist tended to copy other popular artists; Claude Lorrain borrowed from Titian, Poussin from Claude and so forth. Thus, many such artists emerged, including Richard Wilson, a Welshman, who borrowed the Continental images, imposing the classical landscapes on to his own land. This was a fortuitous development as travel in Europe became almost impossible because of the French Revolution, quickly followed by the Napoleonic wars. The ideal landscape began to be found in The British Isles.

Painters began to portray the English landscape as the idealised landscape of the 'Golden Age'. Ruined abbeys, castles and rolling hills become a stock-in-trade for the English painters – local artist George Cuit was one - and great artists began to emerge such as Girtin, Constable, Cotman, Cox and, perhaps the greatest of all, Turner.

As a young and precocious student, Turner was influenced by the great Continental artists but regarded their classical style as 'vulgarisations', mere copies of reality, as well as being pictures of a 'fairy land'. Increasingly as he matured, he was frustrated by commonplace scenery and often altered places he observed to create a sense of drama, such as changing the view from Farnley House toward Otley into Hannibal crossing the Alps.

He first came to Richmond early in his career in 1797 as part of a tour of Yorkshire, searching for suitable subjects and here he found the ingredients of the Classical Myth: ruins, gardens, grottoes, water and a pastoral setting with sheep, grass and trees. On this visit, he sketched the castle from across the bridge which, two years later, he developed as a full scale watercolour. This was his way of working: first sketching on the spot then returning to his studio and using his memory extensively to create the picture he wanted.

Returning to Richmond in 1816, he surveyed the Castle further and, unsurprisingly, Easby attracted him back to sketch the abbey. From slightly upstream, he made both a watercolour study and a detailed study of the architecture, then undertook a downstream view as a detailed pencil sketch, all of which he later developed into a major exhibition painting.



Turner: Easby Abbey

The year of his second visit was to become famous as 'The Year of No Summer', when ash in the atmosphere from a volcanic eruption in Indonesia produced spectacular sunsets. Speculation suggests that the notable sunsets that are a feature of his painting are an outcome of this phenomenon: indeed, it may have influenced the yellow tinge in paintings such as *Chichester Canal* (1828) and stimulated the atmosphere and mood of so many of his works. Incidentally, the storms and "incessant rainfall" during that "wet, ungenial summer" forced Mary Shelley and her friends to stay indoors for much of their Swiss holiday, vying with each other to see who could write the scariest story. Her writing of *Frankenstein, or The Modern Prometheus* and John Polidori's writing of *The Vampyre* were the results. One can only speculate as to the effect on the arts as a whole.

A final visit to the town took place in 1825 when Turner made another series of drawings which have since been called 'the central document of his art'.



Turner: Chichester Canal, 1828

Before Turner, the Picturesque had emerged as an aesthetic ideal. Put simply, it means "in the manner of a picture; fit to be made into a picture" derived from an Italian term *pittoresco* - "in the manner of a painter."

The eighteenth century Age of Enlightenment sought to find rational ideas to understand and explain aesthetic theory but a non-rational approach was emerging. The significance of thoughts, feelings and imagination began to emerge as a factor. For example, Edward Burke pointed out – what now seems obvious – that '*one did not look at a pleasing curved form and decide it was beautiful - rather it was a matter of basic human instinct and came naturally...soft gentle curves appealed to the male sexual desire*', an interesting idea to be explored, perhaps, another time. Undoubtedly, however, landscape became a focus for private sentiments. Painters and their admirers were openly in search of pictures that satisfied and stimulated them. Richmond provided an ideal landscape for them to work from – and this was certainly so in the case of Turner.

In the Richmond Review for 2010 Tony Pollard wrote about the character of Richmondshire as a distinctive feudal community in the later middle ages. His piece stressed the social and military networks of the principal landholders who were bound to the earl of Richmond as 'homagiers' (principal feeholders of the earl), and the homogeneity of the district. He and Dr Melanie Devine have followed this up with a two-part exploration of the role played by this community, especially its resident peers, in national politics between the mid-fourteenth century and 1485. The first part takes the story up to 1399. -Ed

Richmondshire and the Realm in the Later Middle Ages: Part 1: 1342 to 1399

Dr Melanie Devine and Tony Pollard

From the mid-fourteenth to the penultimate decade of the fifteenth century Richmondshire was more significant in the politics of the realm than it ever had been before, or was ever to be again. Beforehand, when it was held by the dukes of Brittany, as earls of Richmond, the lordship was largely peripheral to English politics. After 1485 it reverted to being a backwater. But in between the district punched above its weight in national politics, enjoying a prominence which its distance from the centre of affairs would not lead one to expect. This was because its dominant lords, from John of Gaunt through successive Nevilles to Richard of Gloucester brother of Edward IV (ultimately king himself), were either members of the royal family, or, if not of the royal family, were high in favour because of their connections with these magnates.

This period of unusual prominence may seem all the more remarkable to readers of the *Review* who have grown accustomed to the fashionable idea that there was then, as now, a fundamental north-south divide in England. In this reading the north, and especially the far north close to which Richmondshire lay, was a barely civilized border zone, remote from the centre of power and of decreasing importance to English kings except as a matter of border security. This perception is given substance by the preoccupation of successive kings after 1337, when Edward III lay claim

to the throne of France, with the prosecution of war on the continent, with the consequent concentration of the royal administration in Westminster. No parliament met in York after 1335, or north of Leicester after 1414. Over the same period the economic focus of the kingdom shifted decisively to London and its region. The north, in this view, became peripheral.[1]

Yet it is a perspective that ignores the character of national politics in the late medieval realm. Kings depended on their greater subjects, with their estates scattered throughout the realm, to rule under them in the provinces. Since they did not have the power to rule directly, they worked with and through the agency of lords such as the dukes of Lancaster or bishops of Durham. Royal authority was mediated through them. The great men of the kingdom, the magnates, were equally at home at court and in their 'countries', between which they constantly moved. In this world, too, politics were intensely personal and notoriously factious as individuals and groups jockeyed for position. The magnates, with the backing of vast estates and substantial followings in the country, expected both access to royal patronage and to be consulted on great matters of state. Kings, if they were wise, drew upon them to enforce their rule in the areas of the realm where they were powerful, as well as to fight their wars abroad. It was a two-way process which bound court and country together, however distant the country. And pre-eminent among the great lords were those who were of the royal blood.[2]

Richmondshire was no exception. But there were particular personal reasons why its lords played an unusually prominent role in the affairs of the kingdom after 1342. This is because Edward III vested the earldom of Richmond in his two-year old third son, John of Gaunt, in that year. While John unwillingly surrendered the earldom in 1372, by which time he was

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[1] See for instance Helen M. Jewell, *The North-South Divide* (Manchester, 1994) and F.Musgrove, *The North of England: a History from Roman Times to the Present* (Oxford, 1990)

[2] The most recent and most authoritative discussion of late-medieval political structure is to be found in Gerald Harriss, *Shaping the Nation: England 1360-1461* (Oxford, 2005)

already duke of Lancaster, his interests and influence in the lordship of Richmond itself were maintained until his death in 1399 indirectly by his local retainers – Scrope, Neville, FitzHugh and others. He never really abandoned his claims to Richmondshire, even though it was restored to the dukes of Brittany. Thus, on 7 January 1373 the duke commanded that the annuity of £40 paid to Richard, Lord Scrope should be charged to 'our manor of Bainbridge in the county of Richmond'. But as it was 'out of our hands' he arranged that the annuity should temporarily be paid from his properties in Boroughbridge and Aldborough, just outside the lordship.[3] In 1380, and again 1381, this order was re-issued; it is possible this interim arrangement was renewed every year until Bainbridge was to be restored. Similarly in 1379 an annuity granted to Robert Rokeby was paid from other sources until it could be charged to the revenues of the lordship. In addition the constable of the castle remained his own trusted household servant Sir Walter Urswick until his death in 1393.[4] Urswick was succeeded in this post by Richard, Lord Scrope. Thus, while after 1372, Gaunt did not hold the earldom, not only was the constable of the castle, and therefore the principal officer of the lordship, his man, but also its leading tenants of the lordship were bound to him. Moreover, for some unknown reason, Gaunt never did surrender the authority of the earl over the courts of the five wapentakes, for he granted their revenues to the earl and countess of Westmorland sometime between 1397 and his death two years later.[5] In short, Richmondshire, which he had been granted in tail male, was considered by John of Gaunt to be rightfully his and he continued to exercise his authority in it. The liberty thus mattered in the politics of the kingdom because of its close association with the duke of Lancaster, the most mighty subject of the king in the last three decades of the fourteenth century.

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[3] 'hors de nos mains par certains causes'; *John of Gaunt's Register 1372-1376*, ed. S. Armitage-Smith, 2 vols., Camden Society, 3rd series (1911), vol. i, p. 230 and vol. ii, p. 115. See also *John of Gaunt's Register 1379-1383,* vol. i, p. 56 and vol. ii, pp. 178-9.

[4] Anthony Goodman, *John of Gaunt: the Exercise of Princely Power in Fourteenth-Century Europe* (London, 1992), pp. 214-5 and 288-9.

[5] *Testamenta Eboracensia*, vol. i, ed. J. Raise, Surtees Society, IV (1836), p. 223.

During his thirty year tenure of the Honour of Richmond from 1342-1372, John of Gaunt modernised all the administrative work of the lordship, employing a series of well-qualified individuals to collect rents, supervise the manorial courts, oversee work in the forests, and run the castle and estates with efficiency in his best interests.[6] This allowed him to continue to fight in France and pursue his ambitions abroad, confident that his income from his estates would be collected and available to him. A further advantage was that the fee-holders, who created similar administrative offices within their own fees, did not have to be in attendance in Richmondshire on a daily basis, allowing them to accompany and support him as his retainers and comrades in arms. John, Lord Neville (d. 1388), Henry, Lord FitzHugh (d. 1388), Sir John Marmion (d. 1383) and Richard, Lord Scrope of Bolton (d. 1403) were all his retainers and fought with him in several of his campaigns. And they in their turn drew upon their Richmondshire followers and tenants to serve them in war and peace. FitzHugh and Marmion, as well as Henry, Lord Scrope of Masham, had no ambition for a political career.[7] But Neville and Scrope, above all Scrope, emerged as national figures on Gaunt's skirt-tails.

John Neville was retained in 1366 for a fee of 20 marks (£13. 13s 8d) and contracted to bring with him, when called up 20 men at arms and 20 archers. Scrope was retained in 1367 with a fee of 40 marks, upgraded in 1473 (after Gaunt surrendered Richmondshire) to £40.[8] Scrope was one of the most renowned knights of his generation. He fought at Crecy in

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[6] The National Archives, SC6/1086/2, accounts of John Darrell, receiver in 1383. Archives Loire-Atlantique, E118/50 gives details of the fees and wages for the earl's personal chaplain, his knights clerk, valet and others of John IV of Brittany's retinue in 1398.

[7] Sir John Marmion was a favoured retainer who leased the wapentake courts from Gaunt. T.N.A. DL 42/1, folio 190. His heir was his daughter Elizabeth, who married the next Henry, Lord FitzHugh (d.1425), thus uniting the two inheritances.

[8] Simon Walker, *The Lancastrian Affinity 1361-1399* (Oxford, 1990), pp. 84 and 88. Scrope, paid twice as much, may well have been expected to bring twice as many men as Neville.

1346 and afterwards at the siege of Calais, Neville's Cross in 1356, and campaigned with Edward III in France in 1355. He first served under Gaunt in France in 1359-60, no doubt as a senior commander and adviser, fought at Najera in 1367 and again campaigned with the duke in 1369. Both Neville and Scrope were several years older than Gaunt. As northern men, who had been active in border conflict from their teens, they were much engaged in negotiations with the Scots, as well as campaigning in France and Spain. Having performed as captains, companions-in-arms and senior advisors to Gaunt during his early adulthood, in their later lives they became his political confidantes, allies and agents.

It is not surprising therefore, that Scrope and Neville served the duke of Lancaster politically as well as militarily after 1372. By about 1370, Edward III's health was failing and his regime fragmenting. The sixty to seventy 'knights of the household' who had formed the nucleus of his retinue at war were replaced by a handful of 'knights of the chamber' who formed his inner cabinet in the government of the realm when he hung up his spurs.[9] The heir to the throne, Edward the Black Prince, who had maintained a magnificent court in south-west France as Prince of Acquitaine from 1362, was by 1370 himself chronically ill. He returned home in that year and until his death in 1376 was an invalid, leaving the field open to Gaunt. Thus at the very time that Gaunt surrendered the earldom to the duke of Brittany his influence with his father grew, paving the way for Scrope and Neville to enter royal service as knights of the chamber. Richard Scrope's first appointment as Treasurer in 1371 was unsurprising as Scrope was an experienced and wealthy man in his own right. At the same time, John Neville was appointed Steward of the Household, a role which gave him immediate access to the king. Both Scrope and Neville thus became closely attached to the personal service of the ailing monarch. It is highly likely that Gaunt, who was to return to France, helped ease his most loyal supporters into these key positions to

[9] Chris Given-Wilson, *The Royal Household and the King's Affinity: Service, Politics and Finance in England 1360-1413* (London, 1986), p. 254.

protect his own interests at court.[10] However, their relative inexperience in the royal household soon proved to be a stumbling block for each man.

Financing of the wars in France remained a pressing problem. Scrope, as treasurer, negotiated several large loans between 1371 and 1375. These became highly contentious during the 'Good Parliament' of 1376, which roundly condemned the corruption of king's rule in these years.[11] Scrope, admired by contemporaries for his probity, was at best naive in his dealings with the more sophisticated members of the court circle and others who had benefited from this naivety by selling licences to evade taxation. Neville, perhaps less scrupulous, was found to have brokered royal debts and feathered his own nest while in Brittany on diplomatic service. It is clear that neither man came out of this experience too well: Scrope returned to the north in 1375 to become joint warden of the West March (and to concentrate on the construction of his palatial new castle at Bolton in Wensleydale), Neville returned to France in Gaunt's service. Scrope's cousin, another fee-holder in Richmondshire, Henry Scrope of Masham, joined the opposition to the court in the Good Parliament as one of the four barons on the committee which investigated the legality of the loans, but he did not aspire to a role at court, and was probably engaged in that role in 1376 because of his reputation as an 'orthodox representative of the way of life which the knights of the shire admired'.[12] In that respect, he mirrored his cousin's honest, forthright and loyal declaration during the inquiry, that if the king would release him from his oath of confidentiality as a councillor, 'I will not spare any living man but will say the truth entirely to my knowledge as I have conceived and heard and learnt it'.[13]

During this period both John Neville and Richard Scrope did not neglect to develop their relationships with John IV of Brittany, now earl of Richmond. John Neville, as early as 1372, was sent to Brittany following

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[10] Goodman, *John of Gaunt,* 213, 315-7, 239.

[11] G.A. Holmes, *The Good Parliament* (Oxford, 1975), pp 64-68; Harriss, *Shaping the Nation*, 437-44.

[12] *Ibid*, 154-5; Nigel Saul, *Richard II* (New Haven, 1997), pp. 50-1.

[13] *Anonimalle Chronicle 1333-1381*, ed. V.H. Galbraith (Manchester, 1927), pp. 87-89.

Edward III's treaty with John IV, duke of Brittany, for which negotiations had taken place over the previous year. As the new holder of the Honour of Richmond, but also as the holder of a significant area of the French mainland with ports which could be of great use to Edward III's forces, it was essential to foster Brittany's support for the English king's military ambitions in France. More importantly, it also did no harm to the continuity of John of Gaunt's interests in the lordship. To have in crown service two of his senior retainers, both eminent members of the Richmondshire community, who had links with the new title holder meant that he had access to all aspects of negotiations with Brittany. Indeed, the indenture of November 1377 between Lancaster and the new king Richard II, confirming the reversion of the earldom of Richmond to John IV, stated that the lands of the honour of Richmond 'may easily, and probably will, revert to the king'; this indenture was witnessed by both Neville and Scrope in their capacities as significant crown servants. This statement must also have encouraged Gaunt and his affinity in their expectations regarding the future 'ownership' of the title and lordship.[14] Yet when the duke of Brittany abandoned his English alliance in 1381, any hopes that Gaunt might have had of a swift return of the Honour were dashed. The confiscated earldom was kept by the crown and its revenues granted to the young Queen Anne, although she leased the estates in Richmondshire to Henry, Lord FitzHugh, another of Gaunt's retainers.[15]

Gaunt himself had emerged as the dominant political figure in England in the aftermath of the Good Parliament. He presided over the minority council in the early years of Richard II's reign and remained a force in English politics until he set sail to pursue his Spanish ambitions in 1386. When Richard II succeeded to the throne in 1377, John Neville was serving as seneschal of Bordeaux, and he remained in France during the early years of the reign. Scrope, however, returned to office in October 1378, replacing Bishop Houghton as Chancellor. He was now at the height of his power at court, serving also as procurator for Richard II in

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[14] *Calendar of Patent Rolls, 1377-1381*, pp.69-70. This document also declares that Edward III had granted the earldom of Richmond, and honour, castles, manors, lands, etc., to Gaunt in tail.

[15] *Calendar of Patent Rolls, 1381-5,* p. 45.

negotiations with John IV of Brittany, following the latter's return to England in 1377-8. Bearing in mind Richard II's young age, no sudden changes were made amongst the court personnel until 1380, when Scrope stood aside to make way for Archbishop Sudbury. Scrope had, by this time, become aware of the frustrations of high politics but his loyalty to the crown, in the person of the king, remained undiminished, particularly until Richard II was old enough to exert his own royal authority. The old order of senior officials who smoothed the transition between the two monarchs gradually gave way to a wider body of younger knights personally attached to the new king. Scrope and Neville were still valued, but their influence was now most notably felt on crown commissions in the north, and on the border, and in negotiations for the continuance of the truce with the Scots rather than at court.

By the time of the Lords Appellant crisis of 1387, Richard II had replaced many of the most senior courtiers with young, inexperienced men who had taken advantage of the king's youth to acquire favour, lands and grants. This liberality angered many of the senior peers and they acted against the king. The Lords Appellant, amongst whom was Gaunt's heir, Henry of Bolingbroke, earl of Derby, forced Richard II to attend parliament, dismiss his ministers, impeach Michael de la Pole, his Chancellor, and accept the appointment of a commission of reform.[16] Following the 'Merciless' Parliament in 1388, Scrope was among those appointed to supervise the king's activities. It appears that Scrope had become closely associated with the Lords Appellant, although there is no clear reason for this, beyond Scrope's concern for the good of the realm. He was among those later pardoned for their activities in these years. The pardon stressed the 'innocence and loyalty of certain honourable persons' of whom Scrope was undoubtedly one.[17] It was also in 1388 that John Neville died, having spent his last years withdrawn from political life within the palatinate of Durham, at his seat at Raby Castle. Scrope too was ageing. His flirtation with the appellants hastened his retirement

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[16] For the crisis see Harriss, *Shaping the Nation*, 461-8; Saul, *Richard II*, 148-204 and J.S. Roskell, *The Impeachment of Michael de la Pole, Earl of Suffolk, in 1386* (Manchester, 1984).

[17] *Rotuli Parliamentorum,* vol. Iii, pp. 349-353.

from active politics and withdrawal to Richmondshire to enjoy his new palace of Castle Bolton, and subsequently to his manor of Pyshoo in Hertfordshire. He continued to serve on local and diplomatic commissions, but his political career was effectively over. At the same time Gaunt, who returned to England in 1389, was ailing and he too took a political back seat.

Influence in the 1390s was thus passing to a new generation: to Bolingbroke and to the sons of Scrope and Neville – William and Ralph. In their youths William and Ralph rivalled their fathers for distinguished military and administrative service overseas. They fought in campaigns throughout Europe; Scrope with the Teutonic Knights in Prussia, assisting in a Neapolitan blockade of Venice and in Bolingbroke's retinue at Satalia in Turkey during the war with Cyprus.[18] Ralph Neville was sixteen when he first fought with Buckingham in Brittany in 1380, and was knighted at St. Omer. He also played a significant role on the Scottish border, first with his father, then with Lord Clifford at Carlisle. Both men were at the negotiations for peace at Leulingham in 1393, and both men were appointed executors of John of Gaunt's will in 1393.[19] Both married wealthy heiresses; Scrope married Isabel Russell, daughter of Sir Maurice Russell, and Ralph Neville's first wife was Margaret Stafford, a ward of his father. When his father died in 1388, Neville assumed the role of Lord of Raby and also many of his other responsibilities and appointments, as well as a seat in the Lords, and all the wealth, power and influence attached to those roles. This, together with his continuing close association with Lancaster, became pivotal to his future.[20]

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[18] N.H.Nicolas, *The Controversy between Sir Richard Scrope and Sir Robert Grosvenor in the Court of Chivalry*, 2 vols., (London, 1832).

[19]For Leulingham, see J.J.N.Palmer, 'The War Aims of the Protagonists and the Negotiations for Peace', in *The Hundred Years War*, ed. K. Fowler (London, 1971), pp. 51-74. For John of Gaunt's will, see Anthony Tuck, 'Ralph Neville, first earl of Westmorland', *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* (Oxford, 2004).

[20] Anthony Tuck, 'Richard II and the Border Magnates', *Northern History*, iii (1968).

But unlike Neville, William Scrope, who was probably about thirteen years older, had a living father and no title. Notwithstanding, he carved out his own spectacular career at court. He served in France until 1392, as seneschal of Acquitaine, captain of Cherbourg (1386-9) and captain of Brest from 1389 until he returned to England. He then became a chamber knight and vice chamberlain of the household in 1393. He was, somewhat exceptionally, joined there by his younger brother Stephen. Being part of Richard II's inner circle opened the way for further advancement. Together with his father and younger brother, William purchased the sovereignty of the Isle of Man from William Montague, earl of Salisbury, for 10,000 marks. He was now entitled to style himself 'King of Man' which he did in the truce with France in 1396.[21] He received further appointments in North Wales, as governor of Beaumaris Castle, Caernarvon, Conway and Pembroke, and as justiciar of Chester, and in 1397 was granted the whole county and lordship of Anglesey. These were far removed from Richmondshire, but formed a pattern of territorial aggrandisement close to the king's power base in Cheshire. He was nevertheless granted Barnard Castle, which was confiscated from the disgraced earl of Warwick in 1398. And he was on hand in Richmondshire that year to make sure that the fee holders and tenants did not swear homage to the newly restored duke of Brittany as earl. He was created earl of Wiltshire in 1397, a new earldom, which did not carry any property, but was a reward for loyal service to the king. His elevation came at the same time as the creation of several new dukes and earls, including Bolingbroke as duke of Hereford and Ralph Neville as earl of Westmorland. Like Bolingbroke he had become a magnate in his own right during his father's lifetime. In the last two years of Richard II's reign he was a major player on the national scene. He became chamberlain and then treasurer of England in 1398. He did not, however, enjoy the same

[21] G. Frederick Clucas, 'Williem le Scrope, King of Man', in *Mannin: Journal of Matters Past and Present relating to Mann*, ed. Sophia Morrison, vol. Iii, no v, Yn Cheshaght Gailckagh, Manx Language Soceity (May 1915). 'Wilhelmus le Scroop emit de monino Wilhemo Montacute insulam Euboniae, ide est Manniae, Est nempe jus ipsius Insulae, up quisquis illius sit Dominus, Rex vocetur cui etiam fas est corona aurea coronari'.

respect as his father; indeed one contemporary described him as one of the most evil counsellors of the king.[22]

Ralph, Lord Neville was created earl of Westmorland shortly after he had married, as his second wife, Joan Beaufort, daughter of John of Gaunt, and had therefore become a member of Gaunt's and, by extension, the wider royal family. Thereby he also became Bolingbroke's brother-in-law. The new relationship was to prove critical in his ultimate rise to power and the eclipse of the Scropes as the leading Richmondshire family. Neville, who had succeeded his father John in 1388, did not at first seek a political role. He seems to have been more interested in the chase: about the only patronage he received initially from the crown were offices to do with forests and hunting. But by 1395 he was taking a more active part in the affairs of the realm. In May of that year he was retained as a king's knight at an annual fee of £130.[23] The marriage to Joan Beaufort presaged a major change of direction. He was, in the year of his marriage, granted the lease of the estates of the earldom of Richmond in Richmondshire (surrendered by Lord FitzHugh) as well as Penrith and Sowerby in Westmorland. In addition his new father-in-law granted him the bailiwicks of Richmondshire which he had never surrendered to Brittany.[24] Almost immediately after this began the process of transferring Middleham to the progeny of this marriage, with the intention of establishing a junior line as a Richmondshire family.[25] His favour with Richard II augured well. As the century approached its close he was positioning himself to challenge Scrope domination.

The challenge came in the context of dramatic developments at court. Richard II, a man who never forgot a slight on his dignity, had been awaiting an opportunity to revenge himself on those lords, the appellants,

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[22] *Calendar of Patent Rolls, 1391-6*, p. 371, Anthony Tuck, *Crown and Nobility, England 1272-1461*, 2nd edition (Oxford, 1999), p. 180.

[23] Tuck, 'Ralph Neville'.

[24] The Honour of Richmond was granted to John IV, duke of Brittany, in 1372, but following his allegiance with France in 1381, Richard II granted it to his wife, Queen Anne. The Honour was then granted back to Brittany in 1397, following the truce with France and the death of the Queen.

[25] Tuck, 'Ralph Neville'.

who had opposed him in 1387-8. That chance came in 1397. Having disposed of three of his enemies, the chance came to move against Bolingbroke when he and the duke of Norfolk quarrelled. This is where Shakespeare's play begins. The outcome was that the king, having dramatically stopped a duel between them, banished Bolingbroke for ten years and Norfolk for life. Gaunt secured an assurance that should he die in the interim, his heir would be permitted to enter his Lancastrian inheritance.[26] The old duke died in February 1399, but the king reneged on his promise and a month later confiscated the Lancastrian inheritance while exiling the new duke for life. William Scrope, the new earl of Wiltshire, was one of the chief beneficiaries, receiving grants of the duchy's lordships.[27] It was fortuitous, but perhaps significant, that John de Montfort, duke of Brittany and earl of Richmond died shortly after Gaunt. The earldom and lordship of Richmond thus reverted to the crown as well. It is not inconceivable that William Scrope hoped that this too would be made his. By 1399 Bolingroke and Wiltshire were deadly enemies.

At the end of July Bolingbroke landed at Ravenspur to reclaim his inheritance. During the last two years of Gaunt's lifetime, Westmorland, overshadowed by William Scrope, had kept a low profile. When Bolingbroke landed with but a small band of men, he was among the first to rally to his cause at Bridlington. The ageing Richard Lord Scrope was in Hertfordshire. His son tried to rally the king's men, failed, was captured at Bristol and summarily executed on Bolingbroke's orders. A month later the new duke of Lancaster took the throne as Henry IV.[28] At his right hand was his brother-in-law, the earl of Westmorland. One of Henry IV's first acts was to grant Westmorland the lordship of Richmond for life. He did not make him earl as is sometimes said; Henry kept the title to himself. He had finally recovered for his house what his father had been required to relinquish in 1372. As with the duchy of Lancaster it was for the time being to be annexed to the crown. But his man on the spot

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[26] Harriss, *Shaping the Nation*, 478-82; Saul, *Richard II*, 367-402.

[27] *Rotuli Parliamentorum*, vol. iii, pp. 347-372. *Calendar of Patent Rolls, 1396-1399*, pp. 295, 502, 468.

[28] See, Saul, Richard II, 405-23

exercising all the authority of the earl in Richmondshire was to be his brother-in-law, Ralph Neville, earl of Westmorland.[29]

The Scropes were finished as a significant force both in the land and, for the time being, in Richmondshire. Richard, Lord Scrope, the great survivor, was allowed to live out the last four years of his life in retirement in Hertfordshire, but not until after he was humiliatingly required to grovel before the new king in parliament.[30] Wiltshire had been childless; Lord Scrope's heir was his second son Roger. He himself died in December 1403, six months after his seventy-five year old father, leaving a minor, Richard, aged ten, to succeed to the barony. He and his siblings became wards of Ralph Neville, and the Scrope estates, including Bolton Castle, were placed in Westmorland's custody. The boy was married to Neville's daughter Margaret.[31] Neville dominance was complete. Westmorland was to make sure that the Scropes never became rivals again.

The Revolution of 1399 was thus a revolution in Richmondshire as well as the realm. It was the fulfilment of the Lancastrian ambition to recover the lordship as originally granted by Edward III in 1342. It also secured and sealed the local hegemony of the Nevilles which was to last until 1471. Before 1399 the involvement of the inhabitants of Richmondshire in the affairs of the realm was largely indirect, through John of Gaunt's principal retainers. After 1399, when one of these retainers and his descendants took up the Lancastrian baton in the lordship, the local gentry as their clients were drawn more directly into national politics under their leadership. How this played out in the fifteenth century will be explored in Part Two.

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[29] The relationship between Bolingbroke and Neville is discussed in J.A. Tuck, *Richard II and the English Nobility*, (London, 1973) and J.L.Kirby, *Reign of Henry IV* (London, 1970).

[30] *Rotuli Parliamentorum,* vol. iii, p. 453.

[31] Ralph Neville's will of 1425 corroborates this marriage, referring to Margaret in the bequest, 'item, filiae meae Lescrop j ciphum deaureatum'. *Testamenta Eboracensia,* iii, ed. J. Raine, Surtees Society, xlv (1864), p. 1.

Obituaries

David Morris MBE, an Appreciation

Jane Hatcher

In October 2010 Richmond, and the Civic Society, said farewell to a much-loved figure. In his long life David Morris had made a great contribution to the Society, to Richmond, and to Swaledale, and doubtless to various other areas. Everything in his life fitted together to produce that wise, benevolent and unfailingly charming person.

David was the youngest of three brothers born to the first manager of Darlington's Midland Bank. Welshman Trevor Morris instilled into his sons a sense of public duty and contributing to society. The boys followed the fortunes of the town's then thriving football club, and David still had a season ticket for the 'Quakers' when he died at the aged of 94! He went to Darlington Grammar School and then Bootham School, the Quaker boarding school in York, before following his father into the bank.

At the outbreak of World War II all three Morris boys volunteered for the RAF. Trevor was sadly killed in Canada, and David typically always kept a kindly fraternal eye on his widow. Ivor was seriously injured but survived to outlive David by a few months, and Fl. Lt. David Morris met and fell in love with Cambridge mathematics graduate, WRAF officer Grizel Allen. They married in 1946 and were to have over 60 years together. While bringing up their children, Jane and Robert, they decided to move back north, and David worked at various branches of the Midland Bank, eventually becoming manager at Ponteland. From there they acquired a cottage, Strawbeck, in Muker, where the family could enjoy the Swaledale countryside.

As the local bank manager's role moved away from providing wise financial guidance to customers, David decided to retire and he and Grizel

bought No 1 Prior Avenue, facing Quaker Lane. They threw themselves into numerous local activities, including the Civic Society, but typically had a plan for something much more far-reaching than merely a pleasant retirement. A socio-economic survey in the early 1970s had revealed a surprising degree of hidden poverty in Swaledale, and between them David and Grizel thought out a practical way to help.

They decided to revive the age-old hand-knitting cottage industry of Swaledale, to provide secondary employment, without needing people to travel to work or be outside their home when children returned from school. Strawbeck in Muker became the retail outlet of Swaledale Woollens. Grizel used her maths skills to devise the knitting patterns, David drove round to place the orders with their knitters, collect the gloves, hats, sweaters and cardigans, and to have the interesting conversations to which all the knitters, especially elderly ones who did not get out much, looked forward. There were also many indirect benefits to the area, the business used wool from local Swaledale sheep, orders were sent out through Muker Post Office, and the shop became a visitor attraction benefiting local cafés and pubs. The company is still an important part of the economy of the northern Dales.

Among David's other retirement interests was historical research which he undertook with typically thorough application, and he published six books, including one on the Peacock family of Arkengarthdale only a few weeks before he died. He was keen on music, supporting the Richmondshire Subscription Concerts, and the Georgian Theatre Royal, but it was his contribution to the Civic Society which impinged most on me. Succeeding Peter Wenham as Chairman in 1990, he showed me great personal kindness, particularly at that time.

One of the achievements of his time as Chairman was getting the centre of Richmond designated as an archaeologically sensitive area, so that a condition requiring archaeological monitoring was attached to planning consents. This important heritage designation came about as a result of getting together for a meeting, round David and Grizel's dining table, representatives of bodies including English Heritage, the Council for British Archaeology, North Yorkshire County Council and Richmondshire

District Council. Sadly this designation has not always been consistently followed by the planning authority.

David and Grizel were generous and attentive hosts. Meals at their house were notable for Grizel's excellent cooking and David's pouring of large sherries and refilling of wine glasses. David showed exceptional devotion to Grizel during her slow decline in health. When David was awarded an MBE in 2004 for services to the community of Richmond and Swaledale, his decision to have it presented on the stage of the Georgian Theatre Royal by the Lord Lieutenant, rather than going down to Buckingham Palace, was a typically sensitive solution which reflected his consideration for her. It was very pleasurable to see her successfully make an excellent speech at their Diamond Wedding Lunch Party two years later. Grizel had no will to live on without David, and in her much-reduced state, she died just four months after David. Jane and Robert know well how much the Civic Society meant to both David and Grizel, and how much David and Grizel meant to the Civic Society.

It is with regret that we have received notification of the deaths of members other than David and Grizel Morris:

Pat Carter
Michael Graham
Neville Graham

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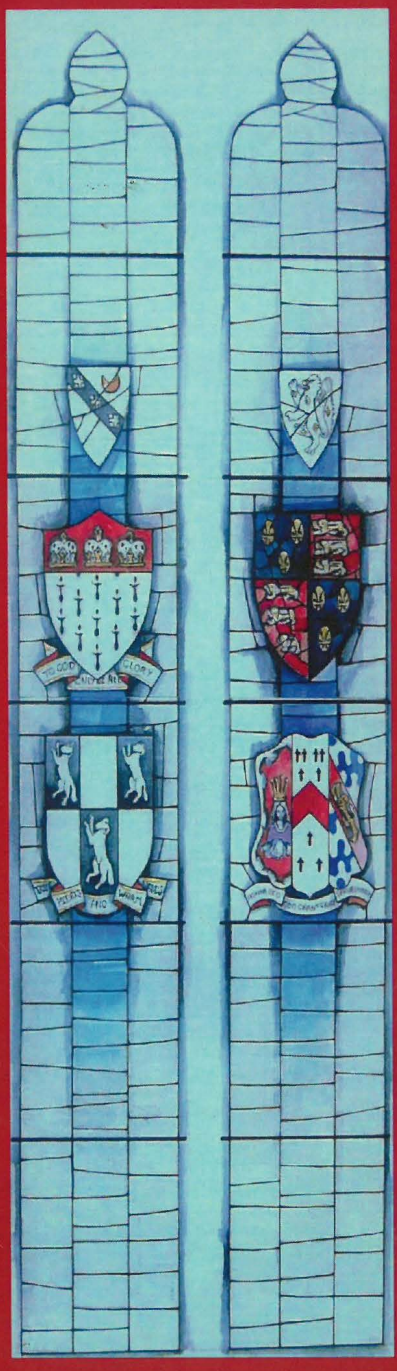
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Civic Society Programme for 2012

January 12th	Dr. Robert McManners **Shafts of Light: Miners and Painters of Spennymoor**
February 9th	Sandra Pollard **Charleston and The Bloomsbury Group**
March 8th	Mike Harris **Henderson Island: Paradise Saved?**
12th April	Jane Hatcher **The Life and Times of Robert Willance**
10th May	David Wilmore **Theatre Matters**
14th June	Tony Earnshaw **Made in Yorkshire**
12th July	***Visit to Woodhorn Colliery & Seaton Delaval**
13th September	Tony Dykes **An Evening with the Settle - Carlisle Railway**
11th October	Clive Hallam Barker **On Flodden Field**
8th November	Serena Dyer **Dressing History: Fashion in the late Georgian & Regency Periods**
14th December	**AGM (Please note, this is a Friday)**

All lectures will be held in the Influence Church (formerly The Zetland Christian Centre), on Thursdays starting at 7.30pm; the AGM will be held in the Town Hall, also starting at 7.30pm.

***Three further possible visits are planned this year: a short break visiting gardens and historic properties in East Sussex, including Sissinghurst and Great Dixter; an evening visit to Gayle Mill and a Christmas visit to Temple Newsam, near Leeds.**



Design for the Guild window,
St. Mary's Church

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